

# STARS STRIPES®

**Bledsoe to sign with Cowboys, reports say**

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Quarterback Drew Bledsoe



**Death news from uniformed man a hoax**

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**Storm damages continue to mount in Calif.**

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2005

*"Your challenges were unprecedented, and so was the outcome."*



## Bush thanks U.S. troops during Germany visit

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MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

President Bush talks to American soldiers who served in Afghanistan during a military review upon his arrival Wednesday in Mainz, Germany. Bush visited the country to meet with German leaders on the war in Iraq, and later spoke to about 3,000 U.S. troops and their families at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

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## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Church sexual abuse:** A Roman Catholic priest convicted last year of raping three altar boys in Dover, N.H., has died.

The Rev. Joseph Maguire died Wednesday in Berlin, about 10 months after he began serving a 44-year prison term. He was 73.

Corrections spokesman Jeff Lyons said Maguire died of natural causes.

Maguire was convicted on 36 felony counts of abusing boys in the late 1970s and early 1980s at St. Joseph parish in Dover. He acknowledged abusing boys in Dover hotel rooms, during overnight trips and at St. Joseph's rectory.

**Jackson jury selection:** Attorneys in the Michael Jackson case made headway in selecting a jury, dismissing a self-styled "karaoke junkie" and two women with ties to law enforcement.

Both sides are allowed to reject 10 jurors each without explanation. The defense cut six and the prosecution five Tuesday in Santa Maria, Calif.

Along with three jurors who were removed by mutual agreement and six of the judge dismissed at their requests, 20 prospective panelists were gone by the end of the day. If attorneys maintain their current pace, a jury could be seated within days.

**Eric Rudolph trial:** Eric Rudolph's lawyers have an explanation for his nearly 50 years on the lam after an Alabama abortion clinic bombing: His western North Carolina culture.

The defense wants to allow the testimony of a professor who contends Rudolph's flight was consistent with spending much of his life in a mountain culture that promotes an independent spirit and a strong suspicion of government.

Prosecutors in Birmingham, Ala., oppose such testimony, arguing it lacks any scientific basis.

### World

**Bangladesh ferry:** Hundreds of desperate people used small boats to search for missing loved ones on Tuesday, three days after a ferry sank in a river near Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, leaving at least 151 people dead.

The double-decker MV Maharaj was packed with more than 200 people when it capsized during a storm just before midnight Saturday on the Buriganga River.

The vessel was about 30 minutes into its journey from Dhaka to the eastern town of Chandpur when wind gusts struck. It capsized and sank near Pagla town. Many of the passengers were heading home ahead of a public holiday.

**Serbia-Kosovo relations:** The European Union on Monday urged authorities in Serbia and the U.N.-administered Serbian province of Kosovo to resume contacts aimed at improving relations ahead of expected negotiations later this year on the province's future.

"Without dialogue ... it will be very diffi-



**Pope's health:** Pope John Paul II on Wednesday gave his longest public appearance since leaving the hospital, greeting pilgrims by video hookup after the Vatican canceled his address from his apartment window when rain and winds lashed Rome. The frail pontiff, convalescing from a recent illness, appeared somewhat gaunt and wheezed as he spoke but read the greetings in six languages as he sat in his studio flanked by two aides.

cult" to hold successful talks, said Javier Solana, the EU's foreign policy representative. He spoke after EU foreign ministers held talks on Kosovo.

The EU ministers met with Soeren Jensen-Petersen, who heads the U.N. administration there.

**Bobby Fischer passport:** Icelandic immigration authorities agreed Tuesday to grant the former American chess champion Bobby Fischer a special passport for foreigners that would allow him to travel to Western Europe, officials said.

The document would allow him to travel freely between the 15 Western European countries of the Schengen zone, a region covering much of western Europe where passports are not required, but not to the United States, said Gudrun Ogmundsdottir, a member of Iceland's Parliament General Committee.

**Maldives tsunami reaction:** Asia's tsunami has given new life to a plan in low-lying Maldives to relocate much of the population to higher ground, while Indonesia said Wednesday it was considering building "escape hills" along its exposed coastline to be used in case another massive wave hits.

The Maldives government wants to house its population on islands with higher elevation and two- and three-story buildings that would allow people to escape another tsunami.

**Czech invasion compensation:** The lower chamber of the Czech parliament voted on Wednesday to compensate victims of the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Of the 160 lawmakers present in the 200-seat chamber on Wednesday, 123 voted in favor, one was against.

Under the law, which still needs approval

by the upper chamber of the parliament, the Senate, those who were injured or raped by a member of one of the five occupying armies between Aug. 20, 1968, and June 27, 1991, or family members of those killed in the same period of time, will be entitled to up to \$6,637.

**Afghan aid worker deaths:** Gunmen stopped a car carrying two Afghan aid workers in the country's south before shooting them in the head, a senior official said Wednesday, a brutal slaying sure to set back the rebuilding of the war-stricken country.

Health Minister Mohammed Amin Fateni told The Associated Press that the sports-utility vehicle used by the two employees of medical relief group In Sina had disappeared but said it was unclear whether militants or robbers carried out the attack.

Fateni said the two aid workers were forced from the vehicle in a desert area of Helmand's Sangin district, 220 miles southwest of Kabul, on their way to deliver medical supplies to several clinics in the province.

**South Africa economy:** South African Finance Minister Trevor Manuel on Wednesday announced a package of tax cuts and social spending aimed at giving South Africa's impoverished millions a bigger slice of the economic cake a decade after the end of apartheid.

Economic growth has averaged 3.2 percent a year over the past four years, slightly less than the African average of 4 percent, Manuel said.

He predicted the rate would increase to 4.3 percent this year and average 4.2 percent over the next three, taking into account the anticipated global slowdown and continued revenue struggles of the state.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

### Correction

A story in Thursday's editions on child-care concerns contained a wrong number for the Marine Corps. In order to get to the DOD-mandated 80 percent level for child care, the Corps will need at least another 2,400 spaces.

### Clarification

A story in Wednesday's editions about Laura Bush's visit to students in Wiesbaden should have said the first lady also visited pupils at Hainerberg Elementary School. Bush's visit to the elementary school was not open to the press.

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# Fight for leadership shaping up

## Allawi unveils new coalition to challenge al-Jaafari for prime minister

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Wednesday he was forming a broad coalition to fight for the post of prime minister after Iraq's dominant Shiite political party nominated a conservative candidate.

The haggling over the new government came against the backdrop of more violence. A car bomb killed two people and wounded 14 in the northern city of Mosul, and a U.S. soldier was killed in a separate bomb attack north of Baghdad, officials said.

Allawi, a secular Shiite, skirted criticism of Ibrahim al-Jaafari, who was nominated Tuesday by the United Iraqi Alliance as its candidate for prime minister. The decision made al-Jaafari the overwhelming favorite for the post.

When asked if he feared that al-Jaafari's alliance could impose Islamic rule, Allawi responded that he opposed the creation of any form of Islamic government.

"We are liberal powers and we believe in a liberal Iraq and not an Iraq governed by political Islamists," Allawi said. "But as a person, he is an honorable man, fighter and a good brother."

Allawi would not provide details of his proposed coalition.

"There are other lists and other brothers in smaller circles which won the elections, and we are working with some of those lists to form a national Iraqi democratic coalition which believes in Iraq and its principles," Allawi said at a news conference, flanked by two interim ministers who are members of his secular party, The Iraqi List.

Kurdish parties have also weighed in with their own demands for top jobs, including the post of president. In order to take the premier-ship, al-Jaafari must build a coalition to gain agreement from Kurds and others on the presidency and candidates for Cabinet posts before seeking the support of a majority of the National Assembly elected Jan. 30.

Al-Jaafari is "a man I can work with, but to discuss who will be



Iraqi Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi greets supporters Wednesday after a press conference at the headquarters of his Iraqi National Accord party in central Baghdad.

the prime minister of Iraq, this still needs more time." Kurdish interim vice president Rowsh Nouri Shawwas told reporters.

"We aim to get high rank in the government institutions. We aim to get one of the top positions. We aim to participate in the Council of Ministers, suitable with our percentage in the elections."

Kurdish parties, which won 75

Assembly seats last year under the U.S. occupation, parliament must elect a president and two vice presidents by a two-thirds majority, or 182 seats. The three must then unanimously choose a prime minister subject to assembly approval.

There is no timetable for the assembly to convene, and al-Jaafari

and his alliance must agree with other elected parties on who will fill the three posts and the Cabinet. Even then, the prime minister has a month to name his Cabinet

before the assembly vote. Al-Jaafari's selection on Tuesday came after former Washington ally Ahmad Chalabi dropped out of the race following three days of round-the-clock bargaining. Al-Jaafari has been seen as having close ties to Iraq's ruling clergy, though he denies any links to a government that President Bush has said is part of an

"axis of evil."

For al-Jaafari, 58, to succeed, he'll have to meet conflicting demands from Kurds, Sunni Arabs and even Islamic hard-liners within his alliance. Iraq's secular Kurds and many Sunnis worry that al-Jaafari will try to impose his Dawa Party's brand of conservative Islam on the country, particularly because the assembly will be charged with writing a new constitution.

Al-Jaafari told the AP last week that Islam should be the official religion of Iraq "and one of the main sources for legislation, along with other sources that do not harm Muslim sensibilities."

He skirted his party's official position, which explicitly urges the "Islamization" of Iraqi society and the state, including the implementation of Shariah, or Islamic law.

"Theory is different from practice," al-Jaafari said.

Allawi also asked Iraq's minority Sunnis, who mostly boycotted the elections, to play a role in the new government. Such a move could help defuse the insurgency, mostly believed to be made up

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,484 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,126 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Tuesday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths. Italy has reported 20 deaths; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each. Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,346 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,017 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A Marine was killed Monday while conducting operations in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Cpl. John T. Olsson, 21, Elk Grove Village, Ill.; killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Cpl. Kevin M. Clarke, 21, Tinley Park, Ill.; killed Saturday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

of Sunni Arabs that once belonged to Saddam's Baath party.

Allawi has staunchly opposed de-Baathification — the effort to rid the government and administration of former Baath Party members.

# British soldiers found guilty of abusing Iraqis

BY MATT SURMAN

The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A military jury convicted two British servicemen Wednesday on charges of involvement in abusing Iraqi civilians.

The panel of seven senior officers found Lance Cpl. Mark Cooley, 25, and Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, 33, guilty after a month-long trial at a British base in Germany.

A third defendant, also from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, had already pleaded guilty. He awaits sentencing, set for Friday, along with Kenyon and Cooley.

Kenyon was convicted of aiding and abetting the abuse and failing to report it, and faces up to two years in prison.

Cooley was convicted of simulating punching a detainee, an action that was shown in a photograph, and of tying up a detainee and hoisting him on a fork lift. He also faces up to two years.

Both men stared straight ahead as the verdict was read by the jury foreman, Brigadier John Devereil.

The charges relate to the abuse of Iraqi civilians suspected of looting a humanitarian

aid warehouse outside Basra in May 2003.

Photos of the incidents provoked dismay in Britain after being published in newspapers, leading to comparisons with the scandal over the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by U.S. soldiers at the Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad.

The third defendant, Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin, 30, already has pleaded guilty to one count of battery, acknowledging he was the man shown in a photo standing with both feet on a tied-up Iraqi lying on the ground.

A fourth soldier, Fusilier Gary Bartlam, who took the photos, was sentenced to 18 months following a separate trial in January.

Bartlam, 20, pleaded guilty to three charges — 20 counts of abusing Iraqis during the forklift incident and taking photos of naked Iraqis posed simulating sex on two occasions. Four more serious assault charges were dropped, however.

Details of his case could only be reported Wednesday after Judge Michael Hunter lifted reporting restrictions imposed for the duration of the Osnabrueck trial.

# Soldiers rebuilding Iraq find challenge, the

BY DAVID ZUCCHINO  
Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — Scott Walton studied government history in college. The U.S. Army trained him as an armor officer. He knew nothing about water-treatment plants or electrical substations.

But in his year as a cavalry company commander in Iraq, Capt. Edward S. Walton has spent as much time dealing with electrical power, sewage and garbage collection as he has fighting the insurgency.

Soldiers such as Walton are at the forefront of a long, tedious and often frustrating endeavor. Building water-treatment plants and setting up garbage-collection routes is hardly glamorous, and work is regularly halted by a halt by insurgents. But the infrastructure projects are the third pillar of the U.S. exit strategy, along with battling insurgents and training Iraqi forces.

"If all we do is combat operations and train security services, we'll never get out of here," said Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, assistant commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, who in the last year has headed military efforts to rebuild essential services in Baghdad.

"I know ISF [Iraqi security forces] is the key to the future, but it's equally important to get these essential services going," Hammond said. "Security without restoration of essential services — it ain't going to work."

"It's a form of ammunition," said Brig. Gen. Mark O'Neill, assistant commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, who is taking over control of Baghdad from the 1st Cavalry this month. "If you can get trash picked up, get water running, get electricity flowing, the sewers working so people's quality of life is improving, then you have to fire fewer rounds of the other type of ammunition."

In Walton's tumultuous little corner of northeast Baghdad, he is often frustrated by some Iraqis' suspicion and parochialism. But he said his efforts over the last year have steadily improved living conditions there, and helped turn some Iraqis away from the insurgency.

He has spent millions of dollars on hundreds of projects, he said, from installing streetlights and power lines to repairing roads and building schools.

Some projects are designed to reward Iraqis who support U.S. forces, he said. Others are set up to undermine support for insurgents in marginal areas. All have produced intelligence by building rapport with Iraqis who have been willing to provide information about insurgents.

He meets weekly with a dozen members of the local neighborhood advisory council,

selected by U.S. authorities as a transitional local government. This week, Walton and his men met council members in a fortress-like municipal complex that was recently refurbished with U.S. tax dollars.

It was Walton's annual meeting with the council. "I've learned a great deal from you all," the captain told them. "When violence erupted here, you guys were always on my side. You'll go down in Iraqi history as true patriots."

Hatem Kadim, a bearded council member in a dapper sport coat, rose to thank the captain.

"Thank you for everything you've done to improve the lives of our people," Kadim said. He seemed to fumble for a way to describe the gun battles that took a toll in casualties from Walton's battalion.

"I feel sorry," he said finally, "for the bad things that happened that we couldn't control."

## War in Iraq is U.S.-insurgent race over new Iraqi forces

BY CHRIS TOMLINSON  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces patrol the streets with flags flying from their trucks, encouraged by U.S. commanders who say victory depends on them. But insurgents have met the new troops head-on by stepping up bombings, assassinations and attacks, taking the war into a new, critical phase.

The Iraqi war has become a race between the U.S.-led coalition, which is trying to train a large, effective Iraqi security force, and the insurgents who are seeking to demoralize and destroy it before it destroys them.

"I feel very angry about these attacks, especially when they are threatening unarmed civilians," said Iraqi National Guard Capt. Sabah Yasin. "But we hope ... that we will manage to keep security in our country and protect it."

Since the Jan. 30 elections, insurgents have killed at least 64 police officers, 43 Iraqi National Guard troops, 15 regular soldiers and 31 people waiting outside recruiting stations.

Yet the Iraqi forces are growing, both in numbers and confidence, Yasin said.

"Our strength is growing more powerful day after day," he said. "The long lines of volunteers at recruiting centers prove that."

As of Jan. 19, Iraq had about 125,000

trained security and military personnel, according to U.S. figures, less than half the goal of 271,000. If all goes according to plan, the soonest Iraqi forces will be fully equipped and trained to handle internal security is mid-2006, U.S. officials have said.

In the meantime, both sides claim some victories. On election day, U.S. commanders were thrilled when almost all the Iraqi forces showed up for work.

But there have been setbacks. In Samarra, an insurgent stronghold, Iraqi police abandoned their posts en masse, forcing U.S. commanders to send in Iraqi National Guard forces. On Feb. 10, insurgents attacked Iraqi policemen in Salman Pak, 12 miles southeast of Baghdad. Iraq's Interior Ministry said 14 policemen were killed.

The next steps for both sides are clear.

U.S. divisions rotating into Iraq will be embedding hundreds of U.S. trainers in new National Guard and army battalions for an entire year, Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, deputy commander of the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division said. The U.S. will also supply the Iraqis with critical gear, planners said.

At the same time, the al-Qaida affiliate in Iraq has promised to intensify attacks on Iraqis involved in the new government. An Internet statement attributed to group said the elections "will increase our strength and intention to get rid of injustice."



An Iraqi soldier rides on patrol in Mosul, Iraq, earlier this month. The Iraq war has become a race between the U.S.-led coalition, which is trying to train an effective Iraqi security force, and the insurgents who are trying to demoralize and destroy it before it destroys them.

## Al-Zarqawi tops new list of most-wanted insurgents

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and a former senior commander under Saddam Hussein top a new list of most-wanted members of insurgent groups opposing the U.S.-backed government in Iraq.

The list, published by U.S. Central Command earlier this month, cites 29 people. The Iraqi government has issued warrants for the arrest of all, and is providing information leading to their capture range from \$50,000 for several leaders to \$25 million for al-Zarqawi.

The network of al-Zarqawi, who has affiliated himself with al-Qaida, is suspected to be responsible for terrorist attacks

that killed more than 500 Iraqis in the last year, the Central Command said.

The No. 2 individual on the list, in terms of reward, is Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, who was vice chairman of Saddam's Revolutionary Command Council. He is now believed to lead groups called the New Regional Command and the New Bath Party and provide financial support for the insurgency.

The reward for al-Douri is \$10 million.

Other people on the list include former members of Saddam's regime, al-Zarqawi lieutenants and people believed to be providing financial support to the insurgency. They are believed to be either in Iraq or neighboring countries, the Central Command said.

### Making the list

Some most-wanted supporters of insurgent groups in Iraq, their alleged roles, and the rewards offered for them:

- Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, terrorist leader, \$25 million.
- Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, member of Saddam's inner circle and leader of New Regional Command and New Bath Party, \$10 million.
- Muhammad Yunis al-Ahmad, al-Douri's No. 2, \$1 million.
- Rashid Ta'a al-Kazim, Saddam-era leader and insurgent commander in Diyala province, \$1 million.
- Abd al-Baqi Abd al-Karim al-Abdallah al-Sa'dun, Saddam-era leader and insurgent commander in eastern and central Iraq, \$1 million.
- Sabawi Ibrahim al-Hasan al-Tikriti (aka Thafir Alsema), Saddam's half-brother, insurgent leader from Syria, \$1 million.
- Fadhi Ibrahim Mahmut Mashadani (aka Abu Huda), Operational leader in al-Douri's New Bath Party, \$200,000.
- Ahmad Hassan Kaka al-Ubaydi, Saddam-era intelligence officer, associated with Ansar al-Islam network, \$200,000.
- Abu Abd al-Aziz (aka Hamza), Foreign terrorist cell leader, \$200,000.

From The Associated Press

### No regrets on numbers

CANBERRA, Australia — Prime Minister John Howard refused to apologize Wednesday for breaking an election pledge by doubling Australia's troop commitment to Iraq, arguing it was justified by the need to maintain an important regional alliance with Japan.

Howard announced Tuesday that 450 additional soldiers will be sent to southern Iraq to protect Japanese military engineers who are repairing roads and schools there.

He conceded that his backflip might anger Australians who remember Japanese brutality during World War II, when thousands of Australian war prisoners died in Japanese custody.

"The Japanese element of this is very important because Japan is a strong regional ally and partner of Australia and I think it is very important to the coalition effort in Iraq that Japan continues to be part of that effort," Howard told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

### Prison rape alleged

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is investigating an allegation that a U.S. soldier raped an Iraqi female prisoner while she was in U.S. military custody, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman said.

The allegation has not yet been substantiated, he said Tuesday.

Another rape allegation against a U.S. soldier by an Iraqi woman was dismissed for lack of evidence, Whitman said.

### Court-martial advised

FORT STEWART, Ga. — An Army hearing officer has recommended a court-martial for a soldier charged with desertion after he refused to deploy to Iraq last month.

Sgt. Kevin Benderman, 40, would face a general court-martial if Fort Stewart's General Court Martial Convening Authority accepts the recommendation.

Benderman, an Army mechanic, refused to deploy with his unit, Jan. 7 for a second tour in Iraq, 10 days after he gave commanders notice that he was seeking a discharge as a conscientious objector. He said he had become opposed to war after serving in the 2003 invasion.

From The Associated Press





AP/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Capt. Jim Gruber, left, of the 76th Infantry Brigade deployed to Afghanistan examines Qudratullah Gul during a routine humanitarian visit to a refugee camp at Pol-e-Charkhi near Kabul. Gruber was the first Army doctor to diagnose Qudratullah with a congenital heart disease that would have ultimately taken his life. The boy is to receive medical treatment for his heart condition at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis in early March. Below: Qudratullah gives a small smile for the camera.

## U.S. military to fly Afghan infant for live-saving surgery

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL, Afghanistan — A 14-month-old Afghan boy with a serious heart defect began a potentially lifesaving journey to the United States on Wednesday for surgery at an Indiana hospital.

The U.S. military is flying Qudratullah, his impoverished father and a translator to Indianapolis for treatment unavailable in Afghanistan.

Medics from the Indiana National Guard discovered the boy in September in a camp for returning refugees in the Afghan capital, Kabul, and diagnosed him with a congenital heart condition called tetralogy of fallot, or TOF.

U.S. soldiers collected the boy and his father from the muddy camp on Wednesday and brought him to a nearby American base for a check-up. He was to travel to Bagram Air Field, north of the city, on Wednesday afternoon for a flight to Indianapolis via Germany.

"We were very excited that they are taking our child for treatment without charge," said father Hakim Gul, smiling in front of his family's name as more than a 100 neighbors waited to see them off.

Like many thousands of Afghans, the boy's parents returned



to Kabul from Pakistan after the fall of the Taliban in 2001 but have found shelter only in squalid camps or bombed-out buildings left over from the country's long wars.

Gul, a 31-year-old native of Kunduz, said he had brought his wife and only child back six months ago from the Pakistani city of Peshawar, where doctors diagnosed the problem but said the treatment was expensive.

The boy's faulty heart reduces the flow of blood to the lungs and restricts the supply of oxygen to the rest of the body. It causes stunted growth and loss of brain function and eventually becomes fatal without correction.

The three Afghans are to stay at The Ronald McDonald House on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University.

Capt. Mike Roscoe, a medic at Camp Phoenix, which houses U.S. soldiers training Afghanistan's army, said the surgery was risky but was Qudratullah's only hope.

"He does have a good chance of living a normal lifespan, which is something that is not even a remote possibility without the surgery," Roscoe said.

BY RUSS BYNUM

The Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Military police are investigating a cruel hoax in which a man wearing a U.S. Army dress uniform falsely told the wife of a soldier that her husband had been killed in Iraq.

Investigators are trying to determine why the man delivered the false death notice and whether he was a soldier or a civilian wearing a military uniform.

"We're taking it extremely seriously. Whatever motivation was behind it, it was a sick thing to do," said Fort Stewart spokesman Lt. Col. Robert Whetstone.

Last month, 19,000 soldiers from the Fort Stewart-based 3rd Infantry Division deployed for their second tour of duty in Iraq.

At least eight division soldiers have been killed since then. Fort Stewart officials would not identify the Army wife who reported to military police that a person posing as a casualty assistance officer came to her door Feb. 10.

"Right off the bat, she noticed some things were not right,"

## Bil would hike death benefit, insurance for Mass. Guard

BY STEVE LEBLANC

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The families of Massachusetts National Guard members killed in action would receive \$100,000 in death benefits from the state, up from the current \$5,000, under a bill filed by Gov. Mitt Romney on Monday.

The bill would make the benefits retroactive to October 2001 to cover National Guard members killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. The death benefit would apply to individuals killed in state and federal actions.

The families of National Guard troops who have died serving their country deserve the support they can get, the Republican governor said.

Under the bill, the state also would pay the \$195 annual premi-

### What to watch for

The Army has guidelines for casualty notification officers to follow when informing family members about the death of a loved one:

■ The notification officers must be of a rank equal to or higher than the soldier killed.

■ They will inform the next of kin in person in full dress uniform. Death notices are never given over the phone.

■ They must identify themselves by name, rank, unit and home base upon meeting the next of kin.

■ They must not physically touch the next of kin, unless there is shock or fainting.

Whetstone said. "The individual's uniform wasn't correct — there were no markings or name tags. Plus, the person was alone, and she knew one person does not make [death] notifications."

Whetstone said no similar hoaxes have been reported.

When the 3rd ID first deployed

■ Officers are told not to extend "overly sympathetic gestures" or "gory or embarrassing details."

■ Issues of benefits, pay, investigations into the death or mortuary affairs are not to be discussed.

■ Officers are required to confirm the next of kin's telephone number and address, so information on benefits and letters of condolence can be sent to the correct location.

■ The Army also requires a casualty assistance officer to contact the next of kin within 24 hours of the notification officer's visit.

Source: U.S. Army Personnel Command

to Iraq for the 2003 invasion, some Fort Stewart families reported receiving phone calls from pranksters saying their soldiers had been killed.

This time around, troops and their spouses get predeployment briefings that included detailed explanations of how death notices work.

um for life insurance policies for National Guard members from Massachusetts.

The Soldier's Group Life Insurance provides \$250,000 in death benefits, but not all soldiers take out the extra insurance.

"Now is the time for the people of Massachusetts to respond by offering a helping hand to the brave men and women of the Guard and their families," Romney said during a visit to the Bedford Army in Lexington.

Since Sept. 1, 2001, about 3,900 members of the Massachusetts National Guard have served overseas and three have been killed.

Currently, there are about 700 Massachusetts guard members serving overseas.

Romney's bill is modeled after legislation at the federal level re-

cently proposed by President Bush to boost the federal death benefit from \$12,000 to \$100,000.

If both bills become law, the family of a member of the Massachusetts National Guard killed while federally activated would be eligible for death benefits of up to \$200,000.

The total cost to the state of Romney's plan is less than \$1 million, according to an aide.

The bill also would make permanent the \$1,500 annual annuity to Gold Star surviving spouses who receive the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs Dependency and Indemnity Compensation; extend the annuity to benefit the spouses of those injured while on active duty but who ultimately die from non-service-related causes; treat National Guard call-up as creditable service toward a state pension.

## Veterans to be source in Yale stress study

The Associated Press

FORT DRUM, N.Y. — Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division will help Yale University researchers who are studying how prolonged periods of stress affect the brain.

The study will help scientists understand the underlying biology of post-traumatic stress disorder, said Maj. Paul Morrissey, chief of the behavioral health department at Fort Drum, located 90 miles north of Syracuse near the U.S.-Canadian border.

Researchers will use magnetic resonance imaging to obtain detailed images of the brain as they

study soldiers who were in combat and who have developed PTSD, combat veterans who have not yet developed the disorder and soldiers who have not yet deployed, said Deane Aikins, a professor of psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine.

A pilot study will begin in March or April involving about 10 soldiers in each of the categories. Researchers hope to expand the study to include about 50 soldiers in each of the three groups.

The Army hopes to gain insight into what separates the soldiers who see combat and get PTSD from those who do not develop the disorder, Morrissey said.

# Bush: Ties with Germany key to Europe relations

Also says visit is 'important' stop

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

MAINZ, Germany — He called Germany "a great nation," characterized the country as beautiful, and said it was the key to maintaining good relations with the rest of Europe.

Sixteen years after his father paid Mainz a visit, President Bush came to town Wednesday to meet with German leaders to discuss issues and message ego strained by the war in Iraq. The trip to Germany, which included a stop in nearby Wiesbaden to meet with 1st Armored Division troops, is part of a five-day swing through Europe.

"This is an important trip for me," Bush said at a news conference with German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, "and one of the most important stops of all is here in Germany."

Bush arrived in Germany on Wednesday morning after spending the night in Brussels, Belgium, where he met Tuesday with NATO and European Union leaders. On Thursday, Bush meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Slovak Republic.

German authorities, in consultation with U.S. officials, closed many roads to allow the president's motorcade to breeze into this city on the Rhine River.

A recent AP-Ipsos poll showed overwhelming German skepticism of Bush — about four in five

Germans say they don't agree with the president's determination to promote democracy around the world.

While thousands of protesters came to Mainz to demonstrate against Bush, the president and his entourage steered clear of the rallies. One White House journalist traveling with the president was surprised by the absence of locals in the immediate vicinity.

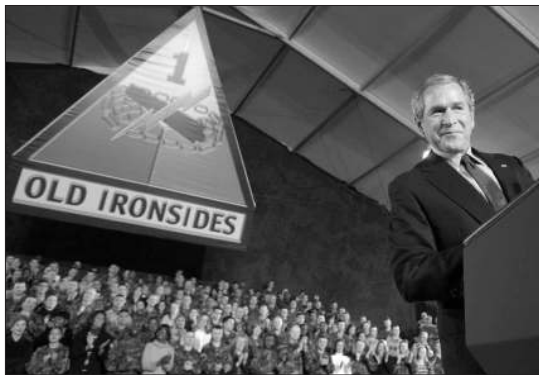
In the days leading up to Bush's visit, German citizens living in the region were told to avoid Mainz and Wiesbaden, if possible. Many area residents skipped work Wednesday and some schools closed. Three hours before Air Force One landed at Rhein-Main Air Base, several teenage students called into a German radio station to thank the president for the day off.

At the news conference, Bush and Schröder insisted that Iran not develop nuclear weapons, and they discussed tactics on how to coax Tehran into compliance.

"It's vital that the Iranians hear the world speak with one voice that they should not have a nuclear weapon," Bush said. "Iran must not have a nuclear weapon, for the sake of security and peace."

The two leaders remain far apart on how to make Iran give up any plans to build such an arsenal, although both said they agreed the end result must be a

SEE BUSH ON PAGE 7



President Bush pauses Wednesday as he speaks to U.S. troops at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Germany.

## President thanks 1st AD troops

The Associated Press

WIESBADEN, Germany — President Bush on Wednesday firmly defended his decision to invade Iraq, displaying his military pride on a tour of European nations that disputed the war.

Speaking to about 3,000 U.S. troops and their families at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Bush called the U.S.-led invasion that created tensions with many European allies "a decisive moment in the history of freedom."

"One of the key lessons of Sept. 11th is that we must confront threats before they fully materialize," Bush said. "In Iraq we found a threat to the entire world."

He said that despite a violent insurgency that continues to claim U.S. and Iraqi lives, the democratic progress in Iraq shows the wisdom of his decision.

"Your challenges were unprecedented, and so was the outcome," the president told the troops. "More than 8 million Iraqi voters defied the terrorists by lining up at the polls, dipping their fingers in ink and casting the first free vote of their lives."

Bush stopped at the American military base as part of a five-day trip to Europe in which the agreement between the United States and key Euro-

For full text of the president's speech, see [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)

pean allies such as Germany and France has been deemed a thing of the past.

Bush and European leaders, as part of an effort to rebuild ties, have tried to stress points of agreement. Bush, in particular, has taken pains to strike conciliatory notes on a range of issues, from Iraq to Iran to global warming and China, and to downplay the kind of militaristic talk that has made him so widely unpopular in Europe.

But before the troops, Bush made clear that military action remains a key U.S. tool.

"Terrorists must be confronted and they must be defeated," Bush said. "In this war, there is only one option for victory: We must take the fight to the enemy."

In the audience were members of the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division, as well as of the 1st Armored Division, including some of the same troops Bush surprised in 2003 with a Thanksgiving Day visit to their mess hall in Baghdad.

## Demonstrators jeer U.S. policies

BY RUSS RIZZIO

Stars and Stripes

MAINZ, Germany — Thousands of people who gathered Wednesday to protest President Bush as he visited with German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder had a few choice words for the president.

Under a light snow, protesters packed a square on Kaiserstrasse in the heart of the government district to object to Bush's foreign policy. They carried signs and made speeches lambasting the administration on a wide array of issues, from the Iraq war and prisoner treatment at the U.S. detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the U.S. refusal to sign the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

"He thinks he is the leader of the world and wants to push his interests and his desires on the whole world," said Helmut Gross, 49, as he stood holding a rainbow-colored flag that read "Peace." Similar flags hung from the dome of the Christus church on the square.

Bush's first visit to Germany since his re-election gave Gross a rare chance to make public his objections to an "illegal war" in Iraq, Gross said. He drove 300 miles from Bad Tölz to attend the event.

Some Americans who live in Germany joined the demonstration, which local police say was organized by the Berlin-based Achse des Friedens, which translates to "Axis of Peace."

David Carson, a San Antonio native living in Hanau, told the crowd he was ashamed to be a Texan because of what Bush's home state has come to represent in the world.

The crowd reacted with cheers and whistles to another speaker who blamed Bush for the deaths of thousands of innocent people in Iraq and other countries.

Wearing a white T-shirt with "Hands off Iran" written in red letters, Farah Waziri listened from the back of the square. Waziri, an Iranian who lives in Marburg, said she was concerned with increased military presence in the Middle East.

"Democracy with war is a lie," Waziri said.

After the event, protesters filed out of the square and began a march around parts of the government district not shut off by steel gates and police in green uniforms. About 7,000 to 10,000 protesters turned out for the event, according to German police on the scene.

SEE RUSS RIZZIO AT: [rizzio@main.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:rizzio@main.estripes.osd.mil)



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

A protester expresses her thoughts about President Bush during a demonstration Wednesday in Mainz, Germany. Several thousand demonstrators protest against Bush and his foreign policy in Mainz.

## Anti-war activists protest outside EUCOM's gate

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — About 40 people protested Tuesday night outside the gate to the U.S. European Command headquarters, calling for an end to the "war policies" of the Bush administration.

The demonstrators were kept behind fences and away from the gate so motorists could drive unimpeded in and out of Patch Barracks. About 40 German police officers were on hand to deter violence, which has occurred in past protests at Patch.

U.S. authorities would not say how many security troops it had stationed inside the security gate and barbed-wire-topped fencing.

"We have enough," said Art Richard, deputy provost marshal for the 6th Area Support Group.

The protesters stood in the snow, holding signs and blowing whistles and noisemakers. Several who gave speeches condemned

SEE PROTEST ON PAGE 7

# Report: VA assets inadequate to help vets

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs does not have the resources to handle the expected posttraumatic stress disorder cases from Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a Government Accountability Office report.

VA officials quickly dismissed the findings, noting that so far they have treated more than 6,400 veterans for those mental health issues, and more than 244,000 veterans in the agency's history.

But health experts said if the report is right, thousands of current soldiers could feel themselves with no way to deal with serious emotional and psychological problems in the near future.

## Agency denies findings on post-traumatic stress disorder, cite numbers of treated

"We have given a lot of attention to the physical side of recovery, but very little to the emotional fallout these soldiers might face," said Dr. Mark Lerner, president of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress. "We have to increase awareness, because this could take months or years to show up."

A 2004 study by defense officials of Army and Marine troops in Iraq indicated that between 15 percent and 17 percent of those servicemembers showed signs of depression, anxiety or PTSD-related problems.

The GAO report notes that as of September 2004, officials at six of seven medical centers surveyed said they likely could not handle an increased demand in PTSD services, and fewer than half of patients treated last year were screened for PTSD-related issues.

It also called the agency's estimation of its PTSD resources "error-prone and inadequately supported" and said the department doesn't have the capacity to handle the current numbers of veterans with such problems.

VA spokeswoman Karen Fedele said the

report ignores current data and changes made within the department.

"We welcome any evaluation of our programs; we ask only that accuracy guide the process," she said.

Veterans Affairs officials estimate that about 2,700 retired servicemembers were treated for PTSD and related problems in 2004 alone.

New Defense Department guidelines mandate psychological counseling for soldiers immediately before and after deployment to a combat zone, and a third counseling session three to five months after deployment. These evaluations will be handled by DOD, however.

Officials said the goal is to better identify mental health issues, some of which can take months or years to manifest.

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## Bush: Leaders discuss range of world issues

BUSH, FROM PAGE 6

nuclear arms-free Iran. Schroeder played down the differences between the United States and Europe.

"We absolutely agree that Iran must say no to any kind of nuclear weapons," Schroeder said. "Iran must not have any nuclear weapons. They must waive anything to the production thereof."

Schroeder wants Bush to more actively engage in talks led by Germany, France and Britain that offer incentives to Tehran, such as membership in the World Trade Organization, in return for dropping its uranium enrichment program.

"There needs to be movement on both sides," Schröder said.

Bush, in contrast, backs the European dilemma but frowns on the idea of rewarding Iran for breaking the nonproliferation treaty that prohibits it from making nuclear fuel or for sponsoring terrorist groups in Israel such as Hezbollah.

"We will work with them to convince the Muslims that they need to give up their nuclear ambitions," Bush said of the Europeans.

But he added: "The reason we're having these discussions is because they were caught enriching uranium after they had signed a treaty saying they wouldn't enrich uranium. ... They're the party that needs to be held to account, not any of us."

Other issues raised during the news conference ranged from Iraq to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to NATO reform and the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which the administration rejected during the president's first term. The two countries later released a joint statement on the environment in which they pledged greater cooperation in the area of energy efficiency and new technologies.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

President Bush and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder pass a military review Wednesday in the courtyard of the Malin Schloss at the beginning of the president's visit to Germany.

tinian conflict to NATO reform and the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, which the administration rejected during the president's first term. The two countries later released a joint statement on the environment in which they pledged greater cooperation in the area of energy efficiency and new technologies.

As he has at other stops on his European tour, the president spoke of the need to put past differences over Iraq behind them and focus on the future. Bush thanked Germany for its "vital" contributions in Iraq, Germany and NATO allies agreed earlier this week to help train security forces in Iraq.

Germany's contributions "are not limited," Bush said. "They are important."

The president seemed especially buoyant when he left a 17th-century castle with Schroeder earlier in the day for a review of German armed forces. Heavy snowflakes were falling and various German dignitaries were lined up to greet the U.S. president. "Your name please," Bush said with a smile as he approached Joschka Fischer, the German foreign minister.

Fischer played along, prompting Bush to identify himself, too.

"In order for us to have good relations with Europe," Bush said later, "we need to have good relations with Germany."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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## GI baffled by letters from N.Y. 6th-graders

Stars and Stripes

A New York City school official, red-faced over Brooklyn sixth-graders who slammed a U.S. with anti-Iraq-war letters, said Tuesday they are sending the 20-year-old private a letter of apology.

Deputy Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina plans to personally contact Pfc. Rob Jacobs and his family, a spokeswoman told the New York Post.

Teacher Alex Kunhardt had his students write Jacobs as part of a social studies assignment.

He declined to comment on whether he read the rants before passing them along, but said he planned to contact Jacobs soon to explain.

In an accompanying letter to Jacobs, Kunhardt said the students "came from a variety of backgrounds and political beliefs, but unanimously support the bravery and sacrifice of American soldiers around the world."

"Support" was not the word that came to Jacobs' mind when he read the letters, the Post noted.

One girl wrote that she believes Jacobs is "being forced to kill innocent people" and challenged him to name an Iraqi terrorist, concluding, "I know I can't."

Uplifting letters from children are dear to soldiers, Jacobs said. He looks at a batch he got from a Girl Scout troop from his hometown of Middletown, N.J., whenever he feels lonely.

Jacobs said he would welcome a letter from the Department of Education and the teacher.

"I want to think these letters were coached by the teacher or the parents of these children," Jacobs told the Post from Camp Casey, South Korea. "It boggles my mind that children could think this stuff."



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Protesters gather Tuesday around a sign that reads "The Axis of Shame leads through Stuttgart" during a demonstration outside the U.S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany.

## Protest: Activists call for peace

PROTEST, FROM PAGE 6

that the United States blew a chance for post-Cold War peace by employing hawkish policies and tactics.

"It's our chance now to develop civil policies," said Heike Hensel of Tübingen.

"There are a lot of menaces in the world and a lot of differences, but [President Bush] has no classic foreign policy; everything is now 'security policy.'"

Two U.S. military police officers guarding the gate declined to comment on the protest.

"They [protest] in the U.S. all

the time," said Richard, who was in charge of the MPs. "Why should it bother me here?"

The event was one of several dozen throughout Germany to coincide with Bush's visit with European leaders and U.S. troops.

In past protests at Patch, German police clubbed protesters who crossed over the fences and dragged away ones who staged sit-ins in front of the gate. But Tuesday's 90-minute event remained peaceful.

"No violence, no sit-down," Richard said. "That's good."

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## IN THE WORLD

## Iran deaths rise to at least 500

Rescuers still finding bodies in rubble

BY NASSER KARIMI  
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Iran — Rescue teams using dogs and heavy machinery pulled more bodies from the ruins of flattened villages in central Iran on Wednesday, and officials raised the death toll from a powerful earthquake to at least 500. The count was expected to rise even higher.

A 14-year-old girl was pulled out of the rubble alive and immediately asked if her family survived.

Teams were hampered by bad weather and the mountainous terrain, working in a cold, heavy rain after a night during which temperatures dropped below freezing.

Mahmoud Javad Fadaei, deputy governor of Kerman province, said more bodies had been discovered. "The death toll is now 500, and there's a possibility that the figure will increase," he said. At least 900 people were injured.

Many survivors huddled in tents, trying to escape the chill, after the magnitude 6.4 struck early Tuesday, damaging some 40 villages with a combined population of 30,000 people and leaving many homeless. Rescue workers were still digging out survivors and bodies in the three most isolated villages.

Search efforts also continued in Sarbagh and Dahoeieh, which rescue workers had the most difficulty reaching in the hours after the quake hit. In Dahoeieh, every building except a mosque with a golden dome had collapsed. At least 80 percent of the buildings in Sarbagh were leveled.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei expressed his "deep grief and sorrow" over the deaths and offered his condolences to the victims' families, urging rescue workers to speed up their efforts.

President Bush also expressed his condolences. "The United States stands ready to assist the people of Iran in responding to this tragedy, and we will be in contact with the government of Iran to offer concrete help," a written statement from the White House said.

The Iranian government — which shuns direct contacts with the United States — has so far not asked directly for international help. Still, the Japanese government announced Wednesday that it would send blankets, tents and other aid worth \$191,000 to aid quake victims.

The Iranian army said a crisis center has been established to assist with relief and that a number of aircraft had been used to fly aid in from Tehran.



Two girls on Wednesday walk through their home, which was destroyed during Tuesday's earthquake in Iran. The powerful earthquake shook killed at least several hundred people and injured at least 900 people, state-run television reported.

## Serbia rejects Montenegro's plan to split

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC  
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Serbia's prime minister and other top officials on Wednesday flatly rejected Montenegro's proposal for a final split of their joint state.

Montenegro's president and prime minister on Tuesday proposed the peaceful disintegration of Serbia-Montenegro, suggesting that the two former Yugoslav republics recognize each other as sovereign states.

If accepted by Belgrade, the deal would abolish what little has remained of the Serbia-Montenegro union, established in 2003 under European Union auspices as a successor state to the already reduced version of the

former Yugoslavia.

"The proposal that you have sent to me represents a serious breach of the Belgrade accord" that was signed in 2003 between the two Balkan republics, Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica said in a letter sent to Montenegrin President Filip Vujanovic and Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic.

"I remain committed to what we have signed," Kostunica said.

Once part of the six-republic Yugoslav federation, Serbia and tiny Montenegro stayed together when four other republics seceded in the early 1990s. Relations between the two deteriorated over the years, especially during the automatic rule of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Serbia's officials, including Kostunica, have

sought to retain the union with Montenegro, despite growing pro-separation sentiment in Serbia.

The Montenegrin officials proposing the split complained in their letter Tuesday that the current union is dysfunctional, its institutions are slow and inefficient.

The document, sent to Serbia's leadership for consideration, said Montenegro's proposal "would resolve the current shortcomings and ensure lasting, stable and quality cooperation."

Serbia and Montenegro have broad autonomy under the EU-brokered deal, sharing only a limited central administration in charge of foreign and defense affairs.

Under the new proposal, which Montenegro said would need ratification by both parliaments, the two would forge a loose military alliance, jointly governed by a defense council with representatives from both states.

In an apparent concession to Belgrade, the Montenegrins suggested that Serbia inherit the current Serbia-Montenegro seats in international organizations, while Montenegro would seek membership as a new country.

## Missile destruction

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A U.S. government delegation worked Tuesday to convince Nicaragua to destroy about 1,000 surface-to-air missiles left over from the 1980s Central war.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher confirmed that a U.S. team was in the Nicaraguan capital to renew efforts to have the portable SAM-7

missiles destroyed.

## Torment arrest

ROME — Italian police arrested an Algerian man at Milan's international airport Wednesday on terrorism charges stemming from an arrest warrant issued by Algerian authorities, police said.

The Italian news agency ANSA identified the suspect as Remli Nadir, 47.

## Missile defense plan

TORONTO — Prime Minister Paul Martin was expected to announce later in the week that Canada will not sign on to the U.S. ballistic missile plan, after his newly appointed ambassador to Washington triggered a row by suggesting Ottawa had already joined the contentious program.

The Foreign Ministry insisted Ambassador Frank McKenna's

comments Tuesday referred to a previous military agreement, not the proposed missile shield. That was not good enough for opposition politicians, who said Martin had betrayed Canadians by "secretly" signing on to the program.

A spokesman for the U.S. Northern Command said there has been no change in Canada's involvement in U.S. ballistic missile defense programs.

From The Associated Press

## Bush turns up heat on Lebanon

BY ZEINA KARAM  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon's pro-Syrian government signaled its willingness to step down Wednesday in an attempt to contain growing anger at Damascus over the assassination of a top politician. President Bush turned up the heat on Syria, demanding a total withdrawal from Lebanon.

With the international pressure on Damascus piling up, U.S. ally Egypt stepped in to mediate. President Hosni Mubarak sent his intelligence chief to Syria and said he expected Damascus to redeploy troops in Lebanon. But he did not mention a full withdrawal of Syria's 15,000-strong military garrison as demanded by Washington, Paris and the United Nations.

Prime Minister Omar Karami made the conditional offer to step down in a newspaper interview. "I am ready to resign on condition that we agree on a new government in order to avoid falling into a constitutional vacuum," he told the daily *Al-Nahar*.

Karami said he will seek a vote of confidence in Parliament on Monday, when lawmakers convene to discuss former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's assassination. He said Feb. 14 bombing on a Beirut street that also killed 16 others. The debate was requested by opposition legislators.

The government holds a majority in parliament but might lose it amid the unprecedented hostility toward Syria and its Lebanese allies over Hariri's slaying. The political powers here and in Syria — the main power broker in Lebanon — have used the departure as a way to defuse the tensions.

Bush ratcheted up the pressure Wednesday, saying he demands that Syria pull out its forces and adding that "secret services" also must go.

The opposition wants an end to the Syrian intelligence network's interference in Lebanese politics, particularly ahead of legislative elections in April and May. The Syrian influence was seen as instrumental in pressuring Parliament and Hariri into accepting the resignation of Lataf's term by three more years despite U.N. Security Council demands not to do so.

Bush and French President Jacques Chirac on Tuesday jointly demanded the withdrawal of Syrian troops and endorsed a U.N. investigation into the assassination.

President Emile Lahoud, Syria's top ally in Lebanon, took a tougher line than Karami, telling the *Sadeel* al-Balad newspaper Wednesday that the government cannot succumb to opposition demands.



# Queen drops 'royal bombshell'



Buckingham Palace said Tuesday that Queen Elizabeth II would not attend the civil marriage ceremony of her eldest son, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, and his wife-to-be, Camilla Parker Bowles, seen Monday in London. A palace spokeswoman said the absence should not be interpreted as a snub.

## Prince's mother will not attend wedding

The Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II's decision to stay away from the wedding of her son and heir isn't a snub to Prince Charles or his longtime love, the royal family insisted Wednesday.

But "royal watchers" and the British media, already amazed at signs of poor organization surrounding the marriage that is just over six weeks away, remained unconvinced.

"Royal bombshell" was how the popular daily, The Sun, described the announcement that the monarch will not attend the civil marriage ceremony of Prince Charles and fellow divorcee Camilla Parker Bowles on April 8. "Queen snubs the wedding," wrote the Daily Mail.

Buckingham Palace and Charles' office denied that was the case, and pointed out that the queen would attend a church blessing after the marriage.

A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said the monarch was

missing the marriage "because she is aware that the prince and Parker Bowles wanted to keep the occasion low-key." She said the queen would attend the blessing at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle following the civil ceremony at the Guildhall, Windsor, on that town hall.

"Clearly, if the queen were to attend the civil ceremony, the occasion would no longer be, by definition, low-key," the spokeswoman said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity. She insisted the queen's decision was "not a snub."

Prince Charles, 56, and his fiancée, 57, are marrying in a civil ceremony because the Church of England — of which Charles will become supreme governor when he takes the throne — traditionally frowns on church marriages for divorcees whose spouses are still alive.

Charles and Diana divorced in 1996. She died in a car accident the next year. Parker Bowles is divorced and her ex-husband is still alive.

## Hundreds die in south Asia from cold temps

BY AMIR SHAH

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Freezing temperatures, avalanches, and food shortages brought on by the coldest winter in years have killed hundreds of people in the mountainous regions of India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

India on Wednesday was reporting 226 deaths in just the past week in its portion of Kashmir, while Pakistan says 346 have died in mountainous regions so far this season. Although Afghanistan has no firm toll, the Red Cross said at least 260 have died, and a foreign diplomat feared the toll could be in the thousands.

Helicopters have been dropping food, blankets and other emergency supplies on remote villages across the snow-covered region. Many roads are impassable.

Forecasters said the worst of the weather appears to be over but that snowfall may continue for a few days, while officials warned that warmer temperatures increases the risk of avalanches.

Highways in India's part of Kashmir have been blocked by that region's worst snowfall in 15 years, causing shortages of food and fuel, with many people struggling to stay warm.

In Afghanistan, the U.S. military and international aid groups have helped rush provisions to isolated communities. The Afghan government has not estimated its toll from the freeze.

In Pakistan, more casualties were expected as workers cleared debris from avalanches and collapsed buildings.

In southwestern Baluchistan province, about 9,000 troops were helping to repair roads and fix power lines. Helicopters took food to some 2,000 people in the Baluchistan village of Toba Kakar, where at least 11 people died when mud-built homes collapsed under snow.

Many regions in Pakistan have reported record precipitation, including the heaviest snow in Baluchistan in 13 years.

## Karzai visits India

NEW DELHI — Afghan President Hamid Karzai arrived in the Indian capital Wednesday on a three-day visit aimed at boosting economic cooperation and expressing thanks for India's assistance in helping rebuild his war-shattered nation.

The trip comes eight days after a visit to Kabul by India's foreign minister, K. Natwar Singh, during which Karzai urged New Delhi to back a gas pipeline from Central Asia through impoverished Afghanistan.

## Aceh peacekeeping talks

HELSINKI, Finland — Former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari, who presided over talks between the Indonesian government and Aceh rebels said the use of U.N. peacekeepers in the province has been ruled out.

Though both sides recognized the need for outside forces to monitor any agreement, "there's going to be no U.N. participation in this," he said.

Indonesia's government did not consider the issue to be an international question, he said. Regional forces could be used, however.

He said the government and the Free Aceh Movement, or GAM, would meet for a third round of talks April 12-17 in the Finnish capital.

From The Associated Press

## Winter wonderland blankets Paris



Snow covers the Champ de Mars under the Eiffel Tower in Paris, after snow blanketed the French capital Wednesday, creating huge traffic jams and delaying flights at airports. The Invalides military hospital is visible in background. Meanwhile, Madrid — a city rarely associated with snow — woke up under a blanket of white Wednesday, as up to 4 inches of snow fell. The snowfall in Spain's capital caused traffic jams on roads leading into the city center and held up commuter trains, delayed by snow on the tracks.

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# Clinton to give AIDS drugs to Chinese children

## Nation struggling to control disease

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Former U.S. President Bill Clinton signed an agreement Wednesday with China to provide a year's supply of AIDS drugs to 200 children to help Beijing battle the disease.

The program is part of a three-year, \$10 million deal struck last year between the Clinton Foundation and China's Health Ministry.

The Chinese government says an estimated 840,000 people have been infected with the AIDS virus in the nation. The U.N. AIDS agency says the number of infections could rise tenfold to 10 million by 2010 if urgent action is not taken.

"We have a real chance to keep this epidemic from spiraling out of control," Clinton said during the signing ceremony, held at the Health Ministry shortly after his arrival.

No details were released about the pediatric drug program.

Clinton said he has taken "personal pleasure" in helping China tackle the spread of AIDS and was impressed at the country's response. "I hope China's actions will encourage other countries (suffering from AIDS) to do as much," he said.

Tens of thousands of people in central Henan province were infected in the 1990s because of an unsanitary blood-buying industry. In some villages nearly every family has a member with the virus, giving parts of the province some of the world's highest rates of AIDS infection.

Beijing has become increasingly open about its AIDS epidemic after years of denial, promising to provide free testing and counseling for those who seek it and free anti-retroviral treatment for the poor.

During the Lunar New Year



Former U.S. President Bill Clinton, left, shakes hands with Gao Qiang, China's executive deputy health minister, after the Clinton Foundation agreed to provide a year's supply of AIDS drugs to 200 children to help China's battle against the disease.

this month, Premier Wen Jiabao visited AIDS patients and called for better prevention measures. The move not only showed the government's efforts to reduce the stigma of the disease, but also highlighted its concern about controlling its spread.

Since leaving office, Clinton has been using the celebrity sta-

tus to get HIV therapies to needy countries through his Little Rock, Arkansas-based foundation.

He has brokered deals with several major pharmaceutical companies to supply AIDS drugs at discounted prices to the Third World and has sent policy experts to help countries fight the disease.

## Food guide blunder

PARIS — The famed Michelin Guide, whose star system can make or break French restaurants, rushed out its 2005 honors on Wednesday — a week early — after the "little red book" mistakenly went on sale early.

Michelin added one restaurant to its top three-star rating — Le Clos des Cimes in Saint-Bonnet-le-Froid in the Haute-Loire region — and 11 restaurants to its two-star category.

The ratings were to have been published March 2, but some bookstores, notably in Corsica, received the new guide early, forcing publication a week ahead of the scheduled date.

## Gas price-filing fines

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — The Swedish Market Court on Tuesday increased the fines against five oil and gas companies convicted of price fixing in the Scandinavian country in 2003.

The court said Statoil, Shell, Oub, Preem and Norel Hydro should pay a combined \$16 million for coordinating gas prices and discounts in 1999, more than doubling an original fine of \$7.6 million set by the Stockholm District Court in 2003.

The verdict is final and cannot be appealed.

The competition authority used the five companies for more than \$58.1 million, saying they had fixed prices and discounts at meetings supposed to focus on environmental issues.

## Satanic cult killings

ROME — Two members of a heavy metal group called the Beasts of Satan who confessed to taking part in three ritual Satanic slayings were sentenced to prison Tuesday, and a third defendant was acquitted.

Andrea Volpe, Pietro Guerrieri and Mario Maccone had confessed to roles in the grisly 1998 killings of Chiara Morino, 19, and Fabio Tollis, 16, in the woods outside of Milan. Five other members of their suspected Satanic cult have been ordered to stand trial.

Volpe, considered the mastermind of the ritual killings, was sentenced to 30 years in prison — 10 years more than prosecutors had asked for. Guerrieri was given 16 years in prison, and Maccone — who authorities said played secondary roles in the murders — was cleared.

## Mars ice sea found

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Images relayed by a European space probe reveal the existence of a sea of ice close to the equator of Mars, scientists said Tuesday at a conference in the Netherlands.

The existence of water or ice would significantly increase the chance that microscopic life may also be found on Mars.

The evidence comes from photographs — not yet published — taken last year by the European space agency's Mars Express probe currently orbiting the red planet.

Scientists have long theorized there was once water on Mars, and even NASA's Mars Rovers has recently appeared to confirm it.

From The Associated Press

# Bavaria doesn't want 'Mein Kampf' in Poland

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A German state that holds the rights to Adolf Hitler's book "Mein Kampf" said Tuesday it was seeking legal action to prevent the book from being published in Poland.

The book, which details the Nazi dictator's anti-Semitic views and other beliefs, is due to go on sale in a few days. Polish publisher XXL said it wants to make a historical record available, but it also cites "a 1,000-year-old worry" among Poles about "the German dream of vast fertile lands and natural resources in the east."

Authorities in the state of Bavaria, which the victorious World War II allies designated as the guardian of Hitler's estate, issued a

statement Tuesday noting that they hold the rights to "Mein Kampf."

"Bavaria applies those rights very restrictively to prevent the spread of Nazi ideology," state Finance Minister Kurt Falthausen said.

**"Bavaria applies [Hitler estate] rights very restrictively to prevent the spread of Nazi ideology."**

Bavaria Finance Minister Kurt Falthausen

Bavaria has asked Germany's Foreign Ministry to instruct its diplomats in Poland to seek a court injunction against the book, he said.

"Mein Kampf," or "My Struggle," is banned from public sale in Germany, although it is available for historical research in libraries.

In Poland, XXL has printed an initial run of 2,000 copies. The planned publication comes

at a time of renewed tension over threats by some Germans to sue for the return of ancestral property they lost in Poland at the end of World War II. Those claims are not supported by the German government.

Nazi Germany started the war by invading Poland in 1939, subjected the country to a brutal occupation that cost millions of lives and set up death camps in Poland as part of the Holocaust, in which 6 million European Jews died.

The book was banned in Poland during the decades of communist rule that ended in 1989. The new edition is unlikely to raise legal problems because its foreword puts it in a historical context, said Zbigniew Holda, a legal expert.

# China's oldest World War II sex slave dies at age 94

BY ELAINE KURTENBACH

The Associated Press

SHANGHAI, China — Zhu Quomei, China's oldest surviving sex slave from World War II who had fought for compensation from the Japanese government, has died at age 94, state media reported Wednesday.

Zhu was among seven women on Shanghai's Chongming Island, in the Yangtze River, known to have been forced to work as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers during the war. Her ordeal, which lasted more than two

years, began when she was three months pregnant.

She died Sunday, the state-run newspaper Shanghai Daily reported. "Her only wish was to get justice," it quoted her son, Zhou Xin, as saying.

Local lawyers have been helping Zhu and some other former sex slaves, all in their 80s and 90s, to obtain national documents to be used as evidence when demanding compensation for their wartime experiences, the report said.

Historians estimate 200,000 women, mostly from Korea and

the Philippines but also from China, Indonesia and the Netherlands, were pressed into wartime prostitution for millions of Japanese soldiers stationed throughout Asia.

Zhu was among a group of former sex slaves who filed a class-action lawsuit against the Japanese government in 2000 in the District Court of Washington, D.C.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the case, initially rejected, to be reconsidered in light of a ruling last year that a federal law allows American

courts to hear old disputes over such things as wartime crimes unless the suits are barred by treaties.

Japanese courts have rejected a number of lawsuits brought by former sex slaves and the Japanese government refuses to provide official compensation, saying such issues were handled under postwar treaties.

A court document said Zhu lived at home but was forced to work in a military brothel and raped repeatedly by soldiers stationed nearby. Her husband eventually fled and was beaten to death by Japanese troops.

## IN THE STATES

## As rain falls, damage rises in California

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Still more rain soaked Southern California on Wednesday, giving Los Angeles its wettest year in more than a century, after collapsing hillsides crushed homes, oozing mud blocked highways and a surging river carried away part of an airport.

The deaths of nine people had been blamed on the series of storms that started last week, including one man who was killed by a falling eucalyptus tree and a teenage girl crushed by rocks that crashed into her bedroom.

While more rain fell overnight, the region was due for a break as the wet weather was moving eastward, the National Weather Service said. To the east, two days or more of rain was forecast in already wet Arizona.

The average yearly rainfall in downtown Los Angeles is about 15 inches, but the total just since last Thursday reached 9.14 inches as of Wednesday morning.

The city's annual in the nearly eight months since July 1, when California begins its yearly rainfall measurements, reached 34.36 inches — more than the annual average for Seattle. That's also the



SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/AP

**Cristina Resendez, left, and Arumullo Gesencio watch Tuesday as Lake Hodges in Escondido, Calif., overflows its dam.**

city's third wettest year on record and with in easy sight of the No. 2 year, 1889-90, when 34.84 inches of rain fell. The record for the entire year is 38.18 inches, set in 1883-84.

A stretch of about 2 miles of the Pacific Coast Highway leading into Malibu remained closed Wednesday because of mudslides and a huge boulder that threatened to roll onto the highway. Dozens of other roads in the region also were closed.

Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn has asked Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to urge President Bush to issue a federal disaster declaration for the city.

## Man accused in plot to kill Bush 'innocent,' mom says

By MATTHEW BARAKAT

The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Family and friends who packed a Virginia courtroom to support Ahmed Omar Abu Ali laughed out loud when prosecutors alleged that he had plotted to assassinate President Bush.

Abu Ali, 23, a U.S. citizen who grew up in Falls Church, was charged Tuesday with conspiring with al-Qaida to kill the president in a plan that prosecutors said was hatched while the man studied in Saudi Arabia in 2002 and 2003.

Those who know Abu Ali said the accusation simply does not jibe with the mild-mannered boy they knew through his active role in northern Virginia's Muslim community.

"Three words describe him: calm, quiet, peaceful," said Jamal Abdulmuty, who knows the Abu Ali family. "He was very wise, very mature for his age. ... We cannot imagine" that he would be involved in an assassination plot.

Abu Ali had been detained for nearly two years by the Saudi Arabian government. He

was returned to the United States and made an initial appearance in U.S. District Court shortly after his arrival Tuesday at Dulles International Airport. He did not enter a plea, but his lawyer said he would plead innocent.

Despite the serious charges Abu Ali faces, his family said Tuesday it was a victory just to have him back in the United States.

"As long as Ahmed has his day in court, I know he will be innocent," said his mother, Faten Abu Ali.

His father, Omar Abu Ali, said Ahmed was born in Houston and raised in northern Virginia, just a few miles from the nation's capital. He attended the Islamic Saudi Academy and graduated as class valedictorian.

The private school's teachings have come under scrutiny since the Sept. 11 attacks. Federal court documents in a case against another academy graduate suspected of terrorism indicate that student discussions following Sept. 11 took an anti-American bent and that some students considered the attacks legitimate "payback" for American mistreatment of the Muslim world.

## Texas man admits to killings

FORT WORTH, Texas — Court records show Stephen Dale Barbee admitted to arguing with his pregnant girlfriend, Lisa Underwood, over leaving his wife. Barbee allegedly said he suffocated Underwood, then suffocated her 7-year-old son, Jaden, after he interrupted the attack. Court papers said Barbee was the father of Under-

wood's fetus.

Barbee told investigators he put the bodies in the back of Underwood's SUV and drove to Denton County and dug a shallow grave, according to the affidavit.

Authorities found two bodies matching the description hours after arresting Barbee in connection with their disappearance Saturday.

From The Associated Press



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# Effort to identify Sept. 11 victims ends

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The medical examiner's office has largely ended its effort to identify the remains of those killed at the World Trade Center site on Sept. 11, 2001, leaving more than a thousand victims unidentified.

"We've finished making identifications for the World Trade Center," Robert Shaler, director of fo-

rensic biology at the medical examiner's office, told the New York Daily News in a story published Wednesday.

The forensic effort failed to identify any remains of more than 1,100 victims, or almost half of the 2,749 who died there.

Since the attacks 3½ years ago, the medical examiner's office identified nearly 1,600 victims, although progress had slowed con-

siderably in recent months. Since September, only eight victims have been identified. A few inconclusive tests are still pending that could yield a couple of more identifications, Shaler told the newspaper.

The city has about 10,000 unidentified bone and tissue fragments that cannot be matched to the list of the dead.

Shaler has said that the DNA ef-

fort could be reopened if new scientific processes were developed.

"It three years from now somebody comes up with something... that really looks like it's going to work, then we're going to be poised to go after it," he told The Associated Press in 2003.

Some identifications were made quickly in the weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attack. To identify smaller remains, the medical ex-

aminer had to rely on DNA matching, drawing residues from shards of bone and tissue. But tests were often not possible because the DNA was too damaged by heat, humidity, and the passage of time.

In most cases, victims whose remains were not identified have been legally declared dead by the court anyway, based on documentation that they were at the trade center or on the hijacked airplanes.

## Study: Postal workers compare aftermath of anthrax to Tuskegee syphilis experiment

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Employees at a U.S. postal facility that processed anthrax-laced letters told researchers they failed to get adequate information during the 2001 attacks, several comparing themselves to blacks who were denied treatment during the government's notorious Tuskegee experiments.

A Rand Corp. study released Tuesday found public health officials gave "very little useful information" to employees at the Brentwood postal facility in Washington and to U.S. Senate staff members who might have been exposed to anthrax spores.

Senate staffers reported they got reliable information from Capitol physicians, but at least some Brentwood workers said they believed government officials were more interested in observing the effects of the anthrax exposure than in treating them.

"I made it plain that I thought it was a cover-up," said one unnamed Brentwood employee who participated in the Rand study. "Because the government's done it before. They did it with syphilis."

Government researchers withheld syphilis treatment from 399 black study participants in the Tuskegee, Ala., experiments of the 1930s, and there were 128 related deaths.

Two Brentwood employees died of anthrax exposure after the postal facility processed a letter containing anthrax spores on Oct. 12, 2001, that was mailed to former Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle. Two more were treated for inhaled anthrax, and an estimated 2,740 others were prescribed antibiotics.

Senate staffers were tested and treated beginning on Oct. 15 — the day the Daschle letter was opened. The Brentwood employees were not screened or treated until Oct. 21, after co-workers tested positive for anthrax, the Rand report found.

U.S. Postal Service spokesman Gerry McKiernan said the agency itself was not aware of anthrax exposure at the Brentwood facility until Oct. 21, and noted that Postmaster General John E. Potter attended a press briefing there three days earlier.

"It's unfortunate and regrettable that some employees might still hold those views," McKiernan said. "At the time of the occurrence, very little was known about anthrax. And we were acting based on advice given to us by public health officials."

A spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Llewellyn Grant said, "There has been no evidence shown informing and treating any of the estimated 10,000 people nationwide who received antibiotics during the October 2001 attacks.



Protesters of visiting University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill father before his public lecture titled "Speaking Truth to Power: Academic Freedom in the Age of Terror" at the University of Hawaii campus in Honolulu on Tuesday. Churchill has been criticized for his comments likening some Sept. 11 victims to Nazis.

AP

## Professor who is target of criticism speaks at Hawaii

BY JEANNETTE J. LEE

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A University of Colorado professor criticized for his comments likening some Sept. 11 victims to Nazis defended his position, saying the attack on the World Trade Center was inevitable given U.S. international and economic policies.

"One does not advocate the volcano," said Ward Churchill. "It requires no advocacy from mere mortals. One points to the volcano and attempts to make sense of it."

Churchill spoke of U.S. atrocities in Japan, the Philippines and in the United States against Native Hawaiians and American In-

dians. About 200 people, barred from entering the University of Hawaii auditorium

packed with a mostly supportive crowd of more than 400 people, listened to Churchill speak on an audio feed set outside.

It was Churchill's first university speaking engagement outside Colorado since his essay comparing victims of the

World Trade Center attacks to Nazis was discovered on a Web site late last month.

Churchill wrote that some "technocrats" killed in the World Trade Center were like Adolf Eichmann, a high-ranking Nazi official who orchestrated the extermination of 6 million European Jews in the Holocaust.

Churchill reiterated his contention that people who function in investment and brokerage trading further economic policies in Third World countries that lead to mass misery and death.

Some students, including members of the Hawaii College Republicans, protested outside the campus auditorium before the speech.

## Former Georgia governor dies at 86

ATLANTA — Former Gov. S. Ernest Vandiver, who won office vowing "no, not one" black child would join a Georgia classroom, but went on to preside over peaceful desegregation, has died at age 86.

He died Monday evening, the family said Tuesday through Gov. Sonny Perdue's office.

Governor from 1959 to 1963, Vandiver had been elected on an anti-integration platform, but at a critical moment persuaded lawmakers to repeal a law requiring schools to be closed rather than desegregated.

## FBI informant continues testimony

NEW YORK — An FBI informant testified that he wanted to put "the world on notice" when he set himself on fire outside the White House, an act that threw the terror-funding fight against a Yemeni sheik into turmoil.

Testifying Tuesday for the second day as a hostile witness for the defense, Mohamed Alanssi said he had not in-

tended to kill himself, even though he sent suicide notes to the FBI and The Washington Post.

"I did not have the intention, but I wanted to put the government and the world on notice," Alanssi said.

Alanssi did not elaborate, but described the incident as a cry for help, saying he set himself ablaze because he was broke, alone and upset by his inability to visit his ailing wife.

## Public skeptical of Social Security plan

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary John Snow acknowledged Wednesday that the Bush administration has not yet succeeded in selling its plan for Social Security to the American people, and said backers would continue to travel the country educating people about the program's problems.

President Bush has traveled to eight states to conduct campaign-style Social Security events, stressing that the system faces long-term financial straits. Supporters in Congress, armed with GOP-prepared materials, are hold-

ing meetings with constituents all over the country this week to try and build support. Wavering members of Congress are holding similar meetings to gauge public opinion.

## State prisons can't segregate prisoners

WASHINGTON — State prisons cannot temporarily segregate inmates by race except under the most extraordinary circumstances, the Supreme Court said Wednesday, all but ending a long-standing California policy aimed at reducing gang-related violence.

The 5-3 decision set aside a lower court ruling in favor of race-based segregation, which argued it should have leeway to set race-based restrictions to promote safety. As a result, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals must now scrutinize the 25-year-old policy for hard evidence that it is necessary and workable — a burden that will be hard to meet.

Racial segregation is unconstitutional unless there is a "compelling" reason, justices said.

From The Associated Press



## GOP coffers six times the size of Democrats'

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican National Committee began the month with a 6-to-1 financial advantage over its Democratic counterpart, with \$16.5 million in the bank compared to the Democratic National Committee's \$2.6 million.

The RNC raised \$10.5 million in January, according to its monthly report to the Federal Election Commission. The GOP spent \$8.7 million, including a \$1 million transfer to Senate Republicans' fund-raising committee and nearly \$1 million in telemarketing, according to an analysis by Political Money Line, a nonpartisan campaign finance tracking service.

The DNC raised \$4.1 million last month, based on its FEC report.

It spent \$7.6 million, including a donation of \$1.5 million to Virginia Lt. Gov. Timothy Kaine's campaign for governor and a \$1 million transfer to the Senate Democrats' fund-raising committee.

The disparity between the two national committees in January fund raising illustrates the benefit President Bush's re-election to the White House can have day to day for his party. However, all is not lost for new DNC Chairman Howard Dean; in the last election cycle, though behind early on, the Democratic National Committee eventually exceeded the RNC in contributions by several million dollars.

Also, the National Republican Senatorial Committee began February with \$1.7 million in the bank and no debt. It raised \$5.3 million in January and spent \$4.6 million.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee had \$475,648 left after paying off post-election debts. It raised nearly \$2.7 million last month and spent just under \$2.6 million.

# Some ready for female president

## Poll finds many are favorable to woman as chief

BY MARC HUMBERT

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — More than six in 10 voters say they believe the United States is ready for a female president, a poll found.

The poll, conducted by the Siena College Research Institute and sponsored by Hearst Newspapers, also found that 81 percent of people surveyed would vote for a woman for president and 53 percent think New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton should try for the job.

Other polls have identified the former first lady as the voters' favorite for the Democratic presidential nomination.

On the Republican side, 42 percent of voters said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice should



Will "Hail to the Chief" be playing one day for Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, left, or Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y.? A new poll by the Siena College Research Institute found that 81 percent of people surveyed would vote for a woman for president, with Rice and Clinton as their favorite choice for candidates.

run for the White House and 33 percent named North Carolina Sen. Elizabeth Dole.

The pollsters found about 60 percent of voters said they expect a woman to be the Democrats' nominee for president in 2008.



AP photos

contrast, they found 18 percent expected the Republican ticket to be headed by a woman.

About 67 percent of those polled said a female president would be better than a male on domestic issues, but only 24 percent

said a woman president would do better on foreign policy issues.

The telephone poll of 1,125 registered voters was conducted Feb. 10-17 and has a sampling error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

## Lawmakers search for civility in House

BY JIM ABRAMS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat Steve Israel first met Republican Tim Johnson when Israel, in a rush to get out of town at the end of a congressional week, bloodied Johnson by slamming the door to the House chamber on his foot.

Israel, a third-term congressman from Long Island, N.Y., says he looks back on the inadvertent but nonetheless painful first encounter as emblematic of the attack-first, talk-later, atmosphere in the House today. Now he's teamed with Johnson in the latest effort to make the House a more civil place.

Johnson, a third-term from rural Illinois, agrees that there has been "an exponential increase in the level of rancor, in the level of acrimony" that he



Rep. Steve Israel

says is a disservice both to the Congress and the country.

Reasonable compromise is difficult, he said, citing the current debate over Social Security reform where "one party is telling the other they are atavistic socialists from the 1930s and the other

party is saying they are trying to starve old people."

Israel and Johnson, in announcing the formation of the Center Aisle Caucus, say they hope to reduce partisan warfare through modest measures such as holding more informal briefings on issues and unscripted after-hours discussions, and giving minority Democrats more time to express their views.

Johnson said they will also be "blowing the whistle when members are unnecessarily disrespectful."

It's hardly the first time members of the notoriously partisan House have launched civility campaigns. In 1997 Rep. Roy Lo-Hood, R-Ill., and former Rep. David Skaggs, D-Colo., came up

with the idea of family retreats where Republicans and Democrats could get to know each other in informal settings. But they've since been discontinued because of waning interest.

In a historical perspective, the verbal assaults of today pale in comparison to the dueling, shootings and budgeonings that at times settled differences in the past.

The Senate — smaller, slower-paced and more clubbish — is traditionally better behaved, but has also shown some strong partisan tendencies recently with Democratic filibusters of GOP-backed judicial nominations and Republican attacks on former Democratic leader Tom Daschle.

## Bush plan to kill, cut programs faces long odds in Congress

BY ALAN FRAM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It isn't hard to understand why few in Washington are taking President Bush's proposal to kill or cut 154 programs very seriously. Just listen to members of his own party.

"It ought to be expanded, not eliminated," Arizona Sen. Jon Kyl says of aid to states with imprisoned criminal aliens, a \$300 million program Bush wants to eliminate.

"We'll fight it with everything that's in us," Pennsylvania Rep. John Peterson says of the president's plan to end vocational education subsidies running \$1.2 billion annually.

Bush proposed the cuts this month as part of his \$25.7 trillion budget for 2006. He wants to trim

nonsecurity programs — except automatically paid benefits like Medicare — by an overall 1 percent from this year's levels, the first such reduction proposed in a presidential budget since President Reagan was in office.

Of Bush's 154 targets, the Education Department would suffer the most losses: He would kill 48 of its programs and about \$4.3 billion and cut two others.

They range from vocational education aid distributed to states and communities nationwide to the B.J. Stupak Olympic scholarship fund. It provides \$1 million for athletes training at the four U.S. Olympic training centers — including Northern Michigan University, in the project of the program's sponsor, Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich.

The program is named for the lawmaker's late son.

Bush's rationale for the cuts is the need to control relentless federal deficits that the White House expects to set a third straight record this year, hitting \$427 billion. He also would slow the growth of the Pentagon's budget and pluck savings from Medicaid, farm aid, veterans payments and other benefit programs.

Many interest groups and members of Congress, including plenty of the president's fellow Republicans, think what's unwise are his proposed cuts. That's why his plan to save \$15.3 billion by eliminating 99 programs and cutting 55 others faces bleak prospects.

### Program cuts in Bush's budget proposal

President Bush has submitted a 2006 budget to Congress that requests eliminating or sharply reducing spending on 154 government programs.

#### Proposed eliminations or spending cuts in 2006 budget

Total: 154 programs			
99 proposed eliminations		55 proposed reductions	
Departments with the most eliminations	PROGRAMS		2005 COST (\$ IN MILLIONS)
Education	48		\$4,263
Health and Human Services	14		970
Justice	9		1,528
Agriculture	5		306
Interior	4		117

Source: The White House

AP



# Report: Campaign cut youth smoking

BY HILARY ROXE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A nationwide ad campaign funded largely by the tobacco industry has helped cut youth smoking rates, a study by a health journal estimates. But anti-smoking advocates say money for such campaigns is drying up.

The American Legacy Foundation's "truth" campaign prevented about 300,000 youths from becoming smokers between 2000 and 2002, according to a study to be released Wednesday in the March edition of the American Journal of Public Health.

That's about 22 percent of the total decline in youth smoking over the period, the study found.

But the foundation, which operates an independent nationwide campaign against youth smoking, is running low on money at the same time state legislatures cut



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH/AP

Anthony Trochez, a youth advocate with a Los Angeles drug prevention program, waits beside a mobile billboard with an anti-smoking message.

into the amount they spend on anti-smoking campaigns.

Tobacco companies agreed to pay into a fund that contributes to the "truth" campaign as part of the \$206 billion settlement reached with 46 states in 1998. But the agreement allowed companies to stop paying after five years if their market share was below 99 percent.

With small manufacturers gaining a foothold in the market, tobacco giants have likely already made their last payment, foundation president Cheryl Heaton said.

The public health journal study looked at surveys of eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders conducted annually between 1997 and 2002, measured their exposure to the cam-

paign and accounted for factors like race, gender and income to determine the effect of the ads, which often feature teens publicly questioning tobacco companies.

The surveys showed 28 percent of teens smoked in 1997, and just 18 percent did in 2002, and the study credits the campaign with 22 percent of that drop. Researchers found the prevalence of teen smoking was falling before the campaign began, but the rate at which it fell increased dramatically after "truth" ads began.

The foundation was not the only group trying to stop kids from lighting up. Some states launched efforts to curb youth smoking in the early 1990s, and others followed suit with their portions of the 1998 settlement.

# U.S. parents mellow about teen drug use

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Today's parents in the United States, who were more likely to have used drugs than in previous generations, see less risk in drug experimentation and are less likely to speak with their children about it, according to a survey released Tuesday.

The study of parental attitudes toward teen drug use, conducted by The Partnership for a Drug-Free America, found that barely half of the parents would be upset

if their children experimented with marijuana.

The number of parents who have never spoken with their children about drugs was 12 percent, double what it was just six years ago, the survey found.

While most parents no longer use drugs — 11 percent reported marijuana use in the last year — they still carry attitudes fostered during their teen years, researchers found. This is particularly true about parents who were teenagers in the late '70s and early '80s, when teen drug use was at a high point.

## NIH ethics investigation clears researchers

WASHINGTON — National Institutes of Health investigators have cleared up to 80 percent of its researchers suspected of secret deals with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, officials say.

NIH officials found errors by government investigators had led to as many as 80 of an estimated 100 researchers being mistakenly implicated in a federal probe of consulting arrangements, The Washington Post reported in Wednesday's edition.

A congressional committee had found that about 100 NIH scientists had failed to notify the agency about their outside deals, as required.

However, the Post reported, a detailed NIH review found that 50 percent to 80 percent of the scientists had followed the requirement but were implicated by mistake because of confusion over similar names, the time period for which data were collected and differences in data coding.

Based on the initial finding that scores of researchers had kept their ties with companies secret, NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni severely restricted the personal activities and finances of the agency's 5,000-plus employees.

From wire reports



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## Child endangered

**IA** WINTERSSET — A 10-year-old girl weighing just 59 pounds was discovered locked in a bedroom, and her father and his girlfriend were charged with child endangerment, police said.

Police found the girl while investigating a tip about possible child neglect, Police Chief Ken Burk said.

"She was being locked in a room while the parents were out of the house," Burk said. "We don't know how long she was there."

"She had dirty clothes on, the hygiene wasn't the best. But, remarkably, she was well, at least spirit-wise," he said.

The girl and a 14-year-old boy who also lived at the home were placed in foster care, authorities said.

The girl's father, John Neely, 38, and his girlfriend, Kimberly Holtmyer, 36, were arrested on child endangerment charges and each posted \$9,750 bail. They would not comment.

## Plan might not float

**HI** WAILUKU — A plan to bring an inter-island ferry system to Hawaii would be sunk if a lengthy environmental review process is required, the head of the company said.

John Garibaldi, chief executive officer of Hawaii Superferry, Inc., said an environmental impact statement, or EIS, would take up to a year and a half to complete, which would jeopardize construction and hundreds of millions of dollars in funding.

Superferry's possible demise before it even is launched would be a disappointment to many residents and tourists, who are looking forward to a cheaper alternative to pricey interisland air travel and one that would allow them to take their cars along, too.

Superferry plans to run two ferries, each carrying 866 passengers and 282 cars, daily between Honolulu and Maui, Kauai and the Big Island — for about half of what current air fares cost.

## Jeweler thwarts robber

**NY** BARDONIA — Barry Fixler was back at work in his jewelry store the day after he managed to draw his own gun and shoot a robber who had a gun pointed at his head.

The robber, who was seriously wounded, is expected to survive.

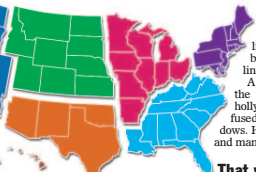
Two alleged confederates who fled after the shooting were arrested within 12 hours, one in Nanuet and one in Connecticut, police said.

Detective Lt. Charles Delo said a review of the shooting on a surveillance videotape showed it to be justified. Fixler, a 57-year-old former Marine, had a permit for the gun.

## Bible classes studied

**VA** STAUNTON — Public elementary schools will continue to allow Bible study during class time while the local school conducts a one-year review to determine if criticism of the practice by some parents is valid.

Several hundred people attended the school board meeting, with many standing and applauding the 5-1 decision to begin the review while continuing religious classes, a tradition in Staunton and some



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

other rural Virginia school districts for more than 60 years.

"My conscience tells me this community needs this program, and we need to keep it," board member Angie Whitesell said.

In the Weekday Religious Education program, first-, second- and third-graders go to nearby churches for Bible classes during school hours.

## Jailbird's proxy wedding

**TX** CORPUS CHRISTI — A Kentucky fugitive captured in Corpus Christi after being on the run for 15 years was married by proxy to his common-law wife.

Ralph Robert Annis, 53, had lived in Corpus Christi for about 15 years as Michael Winters. His common-law wife, Linda Winters, didn't know before his arrest earlier this month about his conviction in the strangulation of his ex-girlfriend's 10-month-old daughter in 1978.

Annis failed to return from a weekend furlough in 1990 while serving a 20-year sentence.

Annis' capture came a few weeks after the Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader began questioning Kentucky officials about their inability to find him.

Justice of the Peace Henry Santana conducted the proxy marriage while Annis remained in the Neuces County Jail.

## Treated birds released

**SC** COLUMBIA — Animal rescue workers have released about 100 birds that were treated for shock and concussions after crashing into an office building's windows recently.



## All for George

Bagpipers march in the George Washington Birthday Parade in Alexandria, Va.

The cedar waxwings were released at the Honeywell wildlife refuge. About 30 birds remain with Carolina Wildlife Care.

A couple of weeks ago, the birds, intoxicated on holly berries, became confused and crashed into windows. Hundreds were injured and many died.

## That was some ride

**UT** MONA — A hiker fell about 1,000 feet down a mountain side, riding an avalanche first — and suffered only minor injuries.

"Extremely lucky," said Juab County Sheriff Alden Orme.

Mark Thomas and two companions were hiking on a ridge near Mount Nebo when snow gave way beneath them, they told police.

His friends did not fall, but Thomas, 21, of Salt Lake City, slid about 1,000 feet, triggering an avalanche, Orme said.

Thomas had a minor back injury and frostbitten feet, police said.

## Jumping for record

**WA** BREMERTON — A 96-year-old man aiming to be among the oldest people to make a solo skydiving jump had a rough landing near here and suffered a dislocated shoulder, but otherwise emerged unscathed.

Milburn Hart of Seattle jumped out of a plane near the Bremerton airport.

Hart, who lives at the North Haven Retirement Center, prepared for the jump with five hours of training and a written test. He'd made two jumps in tandem with an experienced jumper last year.

The folks on the ground watched anxiously as he swung toward the landing site, then away. Slowly, he dropped out of sight into distant trees, landing in an old gravel pit.

## Fur flies over cat clinic

**DC** WASHINGTON — The fur has been flying at John Fur Eaton Elementary School ever since parents discovered that a cat spay and neutering clinic was held there without their knowledge.

After hearing concerns about student health, the school system canceled classes and scheduled a meeting for parents to determine their course of action, principal Willie McElroy said in a statement.

Parents said McElroy never told them about the weekend event.

Crews spent two days thoroughly cleaning the cafeteria where the cat surgeries took place on Saturday and Sunday.

## Teen caught after calls

**MO** ST. LOUIS — A teenager has been accused of using a stolen cell phone to swamp dispatchers with hundreds of bogus 911 calls over a matter of weeks, at times talking of killing some of the responding officers he could see.

The 15-year-old boy sometimes was such a nuisance he called in new emergencies at the same address where officers already were standing, St. Louis County Police spokesman Mason Keller said.

The young culprit was tracked down only after dispatchers filed 25 bogus calls within 75 minutes to the same area where the officer already had arrived, Keller said.



## Fire spread to house

Firefighters battle a garage and house fire in Old Mystic, Conn. The fire started with an explosion in the attached garage. Ten fire departments were called to the scene to battle the blaze.



## New year's fun

Elle Toler, 6, center left, and Mia Schieders, 5, center right, try on a costume used for a traditional lion dance during a Chinese new year party in Maryland Heights, Mo.



## Wind downs trees

East Limestone volunteer firefighter Jonathan Hinton pulls a ladder over trees downed in Claudine Gregg's front yard by a severe thunderstorm. Gregg's house in Limestone County, Ala., was damaged when some of the large pine trees were blown onto her roof.





Good skates

Sean Larsson, 14, left, and his father, Mikael, skate on the Triviz path in Las Cruces, N.M.



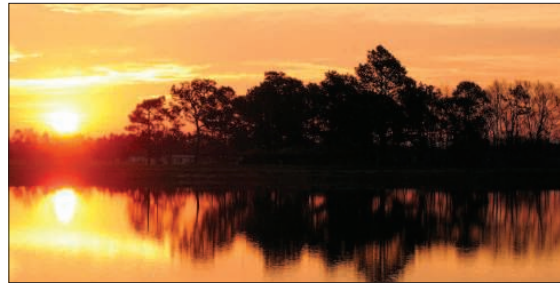
An auction on the wild side

Victoria Walsh, left, Earl Bragg, center, and Bob Fold discuss the furs for auction at the Alaska State Fish and Game horn and hide auction in Anchorage, Alaska. The antlers and hides being auctioned are from animals that were poached, killed by accident or in defense of life or property, or were shot because they had become a nuisance. The auction is the only place in the United States where a person can legally buy a bear hide. It draws buyers from around the world.



Man, that's cold

Andrew Pearcy, 10, reacts to the cold water in Shadow Lake during the Greenwood Special Olympic Polar Bear Plunge fund-raiser in Greenwood, Ark.



Sunrise in Louisiana

The late winter sun rises over a catfish pond outside of DeRidder, La.

## Crash kills paramedics

**AR** LITTLE ROCK — A train slammed into an ambulance that apparently tried to get out of its path, but stopped at a rail crossing, killing all three paramedics on board. The patient in the vehicle survived, officials said.

Paramedics Jeff Ferrand, 37, and John Rook, 23, died at the scene after the Union Pacific train hit the front end of the ambulance, spinning it around and ejecting the emergency workers.

A third paramedic, Christopher Klingman, also 23, was taken to a hospital but later died, officials said.

## Dancing for charity

**PA** STATE COLLEGE — About 700 Penn State University students danced for 48 hours, raising a record \$4.1 million to fight childhood cancer.

The 33rd annual Dance Marathon, orTHON, raises money for a charity that operates out of Penn State's medical school in Hershey. THON has raised more than \$30 million since its start in 1973.

## Hearst Ranch preserved

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — One of the largest land conservation deals in California history became final when the state and two conservation groups closed escrow on a \$95 million agreement to preserve Hearst Ranch, the nearly pristine stretch of coastal rangeland that surrounds Hearst Castle.

Under terms of the sale, nearly all the 82,000-acre ranch about 200 miles north of Los Angeles will remain undeveloped, while 13 miles of coastline that has been privately held for generations will transfer to the state for public access, according to the governor's office.

## Battlefield zoning

**WV** FAYETTEVILLE — A judge has reversed a decision that allowed a 60-acre parcel some says contains a Civil War battlefield and cemetery to be rezoned for the development of a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Raleigh County Circuit Judge Robert A. Burnside Jr. ruled the public never got a chance to review a completed rezoning application or adequately prepare a response to the Wal-Mart project. He ruled that the zoning reclassification earlier approved by Fayetteville's Planning Commission should be reversed and the matter sent back to the town.

Members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy have expressed concerns that the shopping center would disturb a Civil War cemetery and part of a farm area that they believe to be the site of the Battle of Fayetteville.

## Name change proposal

**MA** NEWBURY — Governor Dummer Academy, the country's oldest independent boarding school, was founded before the Revolution. Jokes about its name have been around roughly as long.

The school is named for William Dummer, a former acting governor of Massachusetts who donated land to start the school.

But in a move that has sparked outrage, school trustees decided it was time to put the kidding to rest

and drop "Dummer" from the school's name.

Alumni responded with letters and e-mails that forcefully questioned the need for a change and indicated their financial support was at stake.

The early protests paid off. After alumni and students filed a meeting with trustees to explain their opposition early this month, the board decided to rethink its decision. It announced it would explain why it endorsed what it called a "name evolution" over the next several months as it consulted with students and alumni.

## That's a load of sardines

**OR** ASTORIA — Oregon fishermen landed almost 80 million pounds of sardines last year, according to state wildlife biologists. That's more than any commercial catch except Pacific whiting. The sardines are especially popular in Japan, where many sardines are used for tuna bait. The boom has also fueled cannery expansion in Astoria.

## Forever in bluejeans

**ME** MACHIASPORT — Inmates at the Downeast Correctional Facility have sewn more than 15,000 pairs of bluejeans during the past four years, all of them worn by the 2,000 male inmates in Maine's prison system.

Now, the garment shop at the Bucks Harbor prison has expanded beyond jeans and is making jean jackets that may someday find a market beyond the prison fences.

Maine saves money by outfitting its inmates with jeans made from the pattern kits. It's also a good deal for inmates selected for the coveted sewing jobs that pay up to \$2.90 an hour.

"I'm honored to have this job," said Jason Bridges of Portland, 27, who has four years to go on his sentence. "It's probably the best job here."

## No dice on taxes

**FL** TALLAHASSEE — Gambling jaunts known as cruises-to-nowhere don't owe taxes on commercial activity that happens beyond the state's territorial waters, the Florida Supreme Court ruled.

Unanimously backing a lower court, the justices rejected the state's argument that New Sea Escape's gambling trips fall under in-state commerce rules because its ships never reach a foreign port.

Instead, the court found the Bahamian company can operate under state law on foreign or interstate commerce, meaning it must pay only the state's 6-cent sales and use tax for commerce conducted within the state's territorial boundaries.

## Hmong passing TB tests

**WI** WAUSAU — Hmong refugees from a camp in Thailand are again resettling in Wisconsin after the program was temporarily halted in January because some refugees tested positive for tuberculosis. The U.S. State Department is now using more rigorous testing methods on the approximately 6,000 refugees remaining at Wat Tham Krabok.

Photos and stories from wire services

# FACES

## R.E.M. bassist suffering from infection

R.E.M. bassist Mike Mills has a severe ear infection, but should be well enough for the band to resume its European tour, singer Michael Stipe said.

The band canceled a concert in Sheffield, northern England, after Mills fell ill with flu-like symptoms. The show was rescheduled for June 15. A concert scheduled in Glasgow, Scotland, also was called off.

Stipe said doctors had told Mills he should be able to perform Wednesday, when the band is due to play in Birmingham, central England.

He said the bass player's illness began with a case of flu and evolved into an inner-ear infection.



Mills

## Rocker granted bail change to perform

Rock singer Pete Doherty, facing charges of robbery and blackmail, was granted a change to his bail conditions so he could play a Tuesday night concert.

Judge David Radford agreed to a request that Doherty's curfew of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. be changed Tuesday for one night only — to midnight to 7 a.m. Doherty was expected to play at the Brixton Academy concert venue in south London that evening.

Doherty, 25, former singer with British band The Libertines, attended a preliminary hearing Monday at Snaresbrook Crown Court in London. He was arrested earlier this month after a reported fracas at a London hotel. The singer spent five

nights in police and prison cells before being released on bail.

Radford also granted a request that Doherty's bond be reduced from \$280,000 to \$185,000, but added that applications for a change to bail conditions should not be a "too regular occurrence."

## Miss. legislators commend Faith Hill

Faith Hill can add lawmakers in her native Mississippi to her legion of loyal fans.

Legislators on Monday commended Hill's successful music career after she spoke at the state Capitol to promote a Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center in Meridian.

"Today I stand here before you with my heart filled with pride and a sense of accomplishment," the 37-year-old singer told members of the state House and Senate.

Hill left Mississippi at 19 to pursue a music career in Nashville, Tenn. In 1993, her debut single, "Wild One," spent four weeks at No. 1 on the country music charts. Hill, a native of Star, outside Jackson, has sold nearly 30 million records worldwide.

"We honor you as we do astronauts and ambassadors because you truly are an ambassador of this state," said House Speaker Billy McCoy.



Hill

## Buyer wants to create Carson memorial

The new owner of Johnny Carson's childhood home in Norfolk, Neb., is a private real estate company that wants to turn it into a memorial.

Historic Properties Inc., based in Norcross, Ga., bought the five-bedroom house for an undisclosed price in a deal sealed Friday, said company spokesman Cal Oren. Carson, who died Jan. 23, 1979, lived in the house from ages 8 to 18.

"Our primary motivation here was as a tribute to Carson," Oren said.

Jim Pruett of Brandon, S.D., and Rick Runge of Sioux Falls, S.D., bought the home in March 2003 for \$150,000 and spent about \$20,000 renovating it in hopes of selling it at a profit.

Runge said Monday that Pruett took over ownership more than a year ago. Pruett didn't immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.



Carson

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



FRANK OCKENFELS/SHS

The cast of 'NYPD Blue': Dennis Franz as Detective Andy Sipowicz, Mark-Paul Gosselaar as Detective John Clark Jr., Gordon Clapp as Detective John Medavoy, Bill Brochtrup as clerk John Irvin, Henry Simmons as Detective Baldwin Jones, Jacqueline Obradors as Detective Rita Ortiz, Currie Graham as Lt. Thomas Bale and Bonnie Somerville as Detective Laura Murphy.

# ABC is losing the blues

## 'NYPD Blue' and its characters prepare for March 1 exit

BY NOEL HOLSTON

Newsday (LATWP)

I like a lion and out like... well, if not exactly a lamb, a much less fearsome lion.

That's the arc that's been traversed by "NYPD Blue." In 1993, the ABC cop drama, with its blunt language and flashes of nudity, scandalized thousands of viewers and seduced millions more. On March 1, it will end its 12-season run in relative quiet and anonymity.

Given the series' now modest Nielsen ratings and how accustomed viewers have become to its modus operandi, it's strange to recall that the show once scared off network affiliates by the dozens and led to at least one Bible Belt minister to pray for the collapse of his local ABC station's broadcast tower.

"NYPD Blue" was meant to shock. Producer-writer Steven Bochco, who created the series with David Milch, was determined to push the boundaries of broadcast TV further than he had in "Hill Street Blues" or "L.A. Law," his biggest previous hits. But Bochco also was agitating for more honesty. He was done with putting cop euphemisms such as "dog breath" and "hair ball" into cops' mouths.

"When you're doing a cop show," he

told a gathering of TV critics in Los Angeles in the summer of 1993, "and you're competing with cable, which has a tremendous penetration into homes now, I don't think you can compete unless you can paint with some of the same colors that you can paint with when you're making movies."

The color he favored was blue.

In the notorious pilot episode that

would be the series' enduring contribution to TV drama — was the one that showed a seething, disillusioned Sipowicz parked on a bar stool in mid-afternoon, fatalistically knocking back straight shots of whiskey.

"There was so much controversy surrounding the show," Bochco recalled last month at a final session with critics and reporters.

"And I think if there had been any wobble in the audience reaction to us, I don't know that we would have survived three, four weeks. But we were virtually an instant hit. And I knew that creatively we were enormously strong."

Steven Bochco

'NYPD Blue' producer-writer

*"When you're doing a cop show and you're competing with cable, which has a tremendous penetration into homes now, I don't think you can compete unless you can paint with some of the same colors that you can paint with when you're making movies."*

had many ABC affiliate managers reaching for the Maalox, the bleeps manifested itself in testy, crude Detective Andy Sipowicz (Dennis Franz) grabbing his crotch and inviting a woman prosecutor to "Ipsos this..." followed by a reference to an incontinent female dog. There were assorted epithets involving private parts of the human anatomy, and a scene of Detective John Kelly (David Caruso) and Officer Janice Licalsi (Amy Brenneman) exposing some of the same while rolling about in bed. For all that, however, the pilot's edgy sequence — and the one that pointed to what

when ABC broached the idea, "I think for them it was partly [because] the show wasn't performing at a level that they would have wished it would. You know, it's a very expensive show. And I certainly felt that after 12 years, it wasn't as if there was unfinished business."

But Bochco said there still will be some loose ends.

"I don't think at the end of our last episode you'll feel that the life of this precinct has stopped or ended. You know it will continue on, but you just won't get to visit it every week."

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows. Pressure systems and fronts are for noon today.

Forecast by: USAFE  
Operational Weather  
Squadron, Sembach,  
Germany.  
Produced by: SSgt  
Gerald Herron

Lajes  
61/54

## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Mostly cloudy with snow-showers. Highs in the low to mid-30s. Friday lows in the low to mid-

**Britain, Ireland:** Mostly cloudy with rain/snowshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Friday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Cloudy with rain/snow mix. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Friday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

**France:** Cloudy with isolated snow-showers in the north. Highs in the lower to mid-30s with lows in the mid 20s. Partly cloudy in the south with highs in the mid 40s. Friday lows in the upper 20s.

**Northern Germany:** Cloudy with isolated snowshowers. Highs in the upper 20s to mid-30s. Friday lows in the upper teens to upper 20s.

**Southern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with isolated snowshowers. Highs in the 20s. Friday lows in the teens.

**Hungary:** Cloudy with rain/snow mix. Highs in the mid-30s. Friday lows in the upper teens.

**Northern Italy:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Friday lows in the upper 20s to mid-30s.

**Southern Italy:** Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the mid-40s to mid-50s. Friday lows in the mid-30s.

**Kosovo:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid-50s. Friday lows in the mid-30s to lower 40s.

**Norway:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the 20s. Friday lows in the upper single

**Portugal, Spain:** Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers in the east. Highs in the 40s in the north and mid-50s to lower 60s in the south. Friday lows in the mid-20s to mid 30s in the north and upper 30s to lower 40s in the south.

**Turkey:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Friday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

### European forecast for 24 February 2005

KEY: Sunny Pt. Cldy. Mostly cldy. Cloudy Showers Tstorms Rain Rain/snow Snow

Cold frnt. Warm frnt. TROUGH Occluded fr. Staty. front

L H Low High

## AFRICA

Cape Town	80	62	Mogadishu	81	62
Dakar	73	63	Nairobi	86	57
Freetown	89	77	Rabat	63	44
Kinshasa	92	74	Tripoli	65	44

## THE WORLD

Amsterdam	81	62	Manila	83	62
	36	27		93	72

## THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	36	27	Manila	93	7
Bahrain	71	57	Mexico City	72	4
Beijing	30	10	Montreal	20	<0
Beirut	68	54	Riyadh	84	5
Bermuda	67	58	Rio de Jan	88	7
Caracas	88	74	Seoul	39	1
Helsinki	16	11	Sofia	46	3
Hong Kong	68	61	Sydney	83	7
Lisbon	55	44	Tokyo	58	5

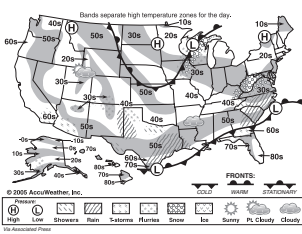
## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

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## MIDEAST

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



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Via Associated Press

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**STARS AND STRIPES**  
Your Hometown Newspaper







## OPINION

## Keeping enemy at bay sustains us for victory

BY ANDREW J. BACEVICH

Americans of a certain age will recall Douglas MacArthur's pithy aphorism: "There is no substitute for victory." The remark captures an essential element of our military tradition. When the United States goes to war, it fights to win, to force the enemy to do our will. To sacrifice our soldiers' lives for anything less — as MacArthur charged was the case in Korea and later unambiguously because the case in Vietnam — smacks of being somehow un-American.

But among the various official statements being issued to explain events in Iraq, any mention of military victory has become notable by its absence. Tacitly — unnoticed even by the war's critics — the Bush administration has all but given up any expectation of defeating the enemy with whom we are engaged.

In the early days of the insurgency, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez vowed to use "whatever combat power is necessary to win," displaying all the pugnacity of a George Patton or Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf. "That's what America expects of me," declared Sanchez in December 2003, "and that's what I'm going to accomplish." Senior commanders no longer make such bold promises. Nor do senior civilian officials in Washington.

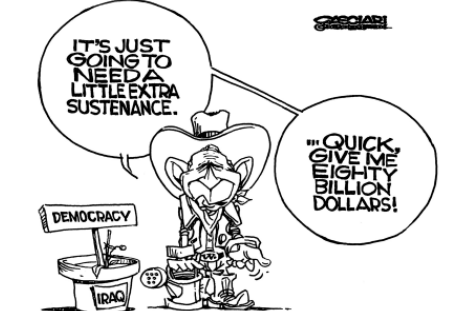
Indeed, today the Bush administration's aim is not to win but to relieve itself of responsibility for waging a war that it began but cannot finish. Debate in national security circles focuses not on deploying war-winning technologies or fielding innovative tactics that might turn the tide, but on how we

can extricate ourselves before our over-stretched forces suffer irreparable damage.

Optimists are placing their hopes on a crash program to create a new Iraqi security force that just might permit us in a year or so to begin reducing the size of our garrison. Pessimists have their doubts. But virtually no one is predicting we will even remotely close to crushing the insurgency. The decisive victory proved by the war's advocates back in March 2003 — remember all the talk of "shock and awe"? — has now slipped beyond our grasp.

Of course, following the heady assault on Baghdad, the conflict took an unexpected turn — precisely as wars throughout history have tended to do. As a consequence, today a low-tech enemy force estimated at about 10,000 fighters has stymied the mightiest military establishment the world has ever seen. To be sure, the adversary cannot defeat us militarily. But neither can we defeat it. In short, U.S. troops today are no longer fighting to win, but simply to buy time: This has become the Bush administration's substitute for victory. Worse, in a war such as in Iraq, time is more likely to work in the other guy's favor.

Whether this reality has yet to fully sink in with the majority of the American people is unclear. No doubt President Bush hopes the citizenry will continue to snoot. Better to talk about Social Security reform and banning gay marriage than to call attention to the unhappy fact that we are spending several billion dollars per month and losing, on average, two soldiers per day — not to prevail but simply to prolong the stalemate. Moreover, if the administration gets its way, we



can expect that expenditure of blood and treasure to continue for many months, until there emerges an Iraqi government able to fend for itself or Iraq descends into chaos.

Pending the final judgment, this much we can say for sure: Two years after the dash on Baghdad seemingly affirmed the invincibility of the U.S. armed forces, the actual limits of American power now lay exposed for all to see. Our adversaries, real and potential, are no doubt busy contemplating the implications of those limits.

So too must we. Our effort to do so should begin with the admission that the idea, promoted during the heady spring of 2003, that through the aggressive use of military power the United States might transform the Islamic world and cement U.S. global pre-eminence was a dangerous delusion. It remains a delusion today.

Andrew J. Bacevich is professor of international relations at Boston University and author of "The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

## Bush right to seek to influence hearts and minds

BY JAMES K. GLASSMAN

Scripts Howard

While President Bush has sent Congress a budget that keeps the growth of discretionary programs below the rate of inflation, he has proposed increasing outlays on public diplomacy by one-fifth.

That's a smart move, and it shows that something important is changing in the second term.

As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said last month, "Public diplomacy will be a top priority for me and for the professionals I lead." It's about time.

Public diplomacy, or PD, is the promotion of the national interest by informing, engaging and influencing people around the world. In the past, with institutions such as Radio Free Europe and the U.S. Information Agency, we had no equal, and PD played a key role in winning the Cold War. No wonder: The United States is home to Hollywood and Madison Avenue, to state-of-the-art marketing research and political campaigns. We know how to communicate.

Of course, policy counts most, and many foreigners simply disagree with our policies — in Iraq, on the environment, on trade. But we have a better chance of winning them over if we explain ourselves well — a task that is practically impossible right now. The problem isn't the State Department. It's bigger. Public diplomacy lacks strategic direction, clear goals, a method of assessing whether programs are working, and money.

But there's no doubt that Rice understands this and is out to fix it, and the president's current trip to Europe reflects her new emphasis. The road to Brussels was paved, by Rice herself and others, with smooth and effective use of public (as well as official) diplomacy. Even the antagonistic New York Times headlined Sunday, "Opinion Is Softening on Divided Continent."

Some call public diplomacy "soft power," but that's nonsense. In addition to long-term projects such as exchange programs for students and foreign officials, PD can be tough and aggressive and immediate.

Imagine, for example, a kind of rapid-response truth squad, which would immediately counter the hundreds of lies and distortions about the United States that appear each day in the world press.

In 2003, I served on the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World, a commission established by Congress and headed by a respected ambassador, Edward Djerejian, who served president of both parties. What we were doing was shocking. Among other things, the United States has fewer than a half-dozen Arabic speakers who can debate policy on TV in the Middle East.

Public diplomacy played a big role in winning the Cold War but, after the Berlin Wall came down, the magnificent PD apparatus

was dismantled, bit by bit, by left and right. During the 1980s and 1990s, staffing dropped by one-third and funding, adjusted for inflation, by one-fourth.

"A process of unilateral disarmament in the weapons of advocacy over the last decade," said the Djerejian report, "has contributed to widespread hostility toward Americans and left us vulnerable to lethal threats to our interests and our safety."

Most of this disarmament occurred during the Clinton administration. But in the first term of George W. Bush, public diplomacy did not receive the attention it deserved. I can forgive the president and his advisers; they were hustling to restore the military readiness that had also been neglected under Clinton. Still, the top PD post in the State Department went unfilled for nearly two years.

Now, Bush and Rice have signaled that they are serious about restoring PD to its rightful place in the nation's armamentary.

um. In her prepared statement at confirmation hearings last month, Rice said, "We need to do much more to confront hateful propaganda, dispel dangerous myths and get out the truth. We will increase our exchanges with the rest of the world. And Americans should make a serious effort to understand other cultures and learn foreign languages. ... If our public diplomacy efforts are to succeed, we cannot close ourselves off from the world."

Even with the proposed increases, public diplomacy remains, as the Djerejian report said, "absurdly and dangerously underfunded" — in this time of peril. "But money isn't the whole problem. PD needs, first and foremost, to be taken seriously in the White House as a way to win the war against terrorism and the battle for global democracy and prosperity. The signs, in the first month of the new administration, are hopeful."

James K. Glassman is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. He is also the author of the Web site TechCentralStation.com.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



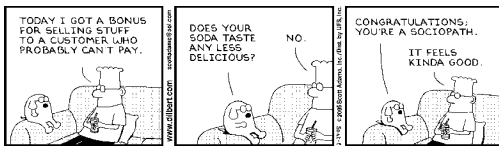
Spider Man



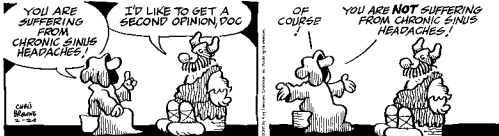
Blondie



Dilbert



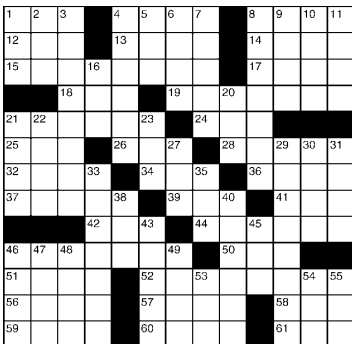
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Rock band's need  
4 Jalopy  
8 Weak, as an excuse  
12 Privy  
13 Sicilian spouter  
14 Reunion guest, maybe  
15 Face painting?  
17 Tranquil  
18 Jamaican export  
19 Majestic  
21 Cure-all  
24 Rage  
25 Scoundrel  
26 Pinnacle  
28 Poultry purchase  
32 Lofty  
34 Apiary denizen  
36 Unrivaled  
37 Black-and-white treats  
39 Homer Simpson's dad  
41 Nipper's old boss  
42 Robitaille of hockey  
44 Sticker's place  
46 Sleeping car  
50 Carnival city  
51 Duel tool  
52 State of being permeable  
56 Bellow  
57 Harvest  
58 Witness  
59 Make — meet  
60 Out of the wind

- 61 Pair in Tennessee?

## Down

- 1 Matterhorn, e.g.  
2 Cattle call  
3 Mama Bear's recipe  
4 Recluse  
5 Timetable abbr.  
6 Blackbirds  
7 Page of music  
8 Milky  
9 Wings  
10 Think (lover)  
11 Tube trophy  
16 Monkey suit  
20 Curve  
21 Reverberate  
22 Den  
23 Filch  
27 Shooter ammo  
29 Whale's cousin  
30 Fairy-tale opener  
31 At hand  
33 Screams  
35 "Chicago" lyricist  
38 Bottom line  
40 One side of the Urals  
43 "It's a Wonderful Life" director  
45 Wrong (Pref.)  
46 Father (Fr.)  
47 Word after 30-Down  
48 Take charge  
49 Yuletide refrain  
53 "Norma —"  
54 X rating?  
55 "Without question"

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 2-24 CRYPTOQUIP

FABK WTZNL B XYGTY  
XYQEGLODK'E LQDKZYQE  
VQ WBNNQL? KAQ OQTYOQ

FBEAGDOKTD VYGLOQ.  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF AN ITALIAN CHEF GOT VERY MAD, I PRESUME HE COULD GIVE YOU A PIZZA HIS MIND!

Today's Cryptquip Clue: L equals D

# Be good influence for son's friend

**Dear Abby:** My son, "Adam," is 9. He's very bright and earns straight A's in school. Adam gets in trouble now and then for goofing off, but nothing serious.

Adam has become friends with a boy in his class named "Sean," who has been in trouble quite often and has even been suspended from school. I happen to know that Sean's parents have drugs in their home and have been in trouble with the law.

Although allowing my son to go to Sean's house is out of the question, I have considered permitting Sean to come here and play where I can keep a close eye on him. I can't help but see that Sean is an innocent child who needs a positive influence. Would I be wrong to allow Adam to invite him over? Or should I discourage this friendship altogether? I'm unsure how to handle this.

— Protective Mom in Illinois

**Dear Abby**



*Dear Mom: You are in a position to make an important difference in that child's life. You could be the influence that turns his life around. The more time Sean spends in your home, the more he will be able to experience what a healthy family is like. As long as your son's friend follows the rules at your house, I see no reason why he should not be invited over. So be an angel and throw the boy a lifeline.*

**Dear Abby:** I moved in with the gentleman friend "Victor" eight months ago. I have insisted on paying for my room and board even though I was between jobs and money is tight.

Recently, over my objections, Victor emptied a room of my personal effects to make room for his guests. He has put me in a smaller room, so he also wants to make available to his

guest's guests. Mind you, by "personal effects" I mean my underwear, jewelry, bills and personal papers, etc. There is only one full bathroom in his house, so this room is also where I dress and take care of private matters.

The "guests" are usually Victor's grown sons and their girlfriends. I no longer have warm, fuzzy feelings for this man. Am I being unreasonable or unforgiving? Victor says I don't need to go, but I think it's time I move on. What do you think?

— Unfair in Florida

**Dear Unfair:** By moving your belongings over your objection, Victor has sent you an important message. He may think you don't need to go, but since you no longer have "warm, fuzzy feelings" for him, I agree that you must. It's not unreasonable or unforgiving, it is rational.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Service Syndicate.

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYLIF

OCTIX

INLOIV

DEXENP

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles Answer:

RIVET MANGY FEEBLE AIRWAY

When they vacationed on the posh island, they were surrounded by — WATER

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiliron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

“ ” (Answers tomorrow)

# Grandma's medical updates too much

**Dear Annie:** My 89-year-old grandmother has been living with my parents for the past couple of years. Although Grandma has some medical problems, she always has been spunky and independent.

My family does not get to visit often, as we live several hours away. The problem is that Mom and Dad send all of the family e-mail, which contains way too much detail about Grandma's bowels, diaper changes, medications, etc.

I don't want to mention Grandma from the perspective of a medical caregiver. I think this blabbing takes away from her dignity and that she would be embarrassed and upset knowing her personal information is disseminated in such a fashion. I know my parents are avid readers of yours. I hope they will read this and mend their ways.

— Grouched-Out Grandchild

**Dear Grouched-Out:** One of the reasons your parents are e-mailing this information is because it

**Annie's Mailbox**



is a form of emotional support for them. They are sharing their burden with people who love Grandma, and who will step in and help if need be. However, they shouldn't force it on you.

Tell your parents that you love Grandma and want to know how she's doing, but you cannot handle all the details about her medical

status.

**Dear Annie:** I read the letter from "Indiana," the man who likes to wear pantyhose. Shame on you for insinuating that most men who wear pantyhose are cross-dressers. I used to work at a large hospital, and many of the male nurses, orderlies and some doctors wore stockings under their scrub uniforms for support.

Not only do your legs feel better at the end of a long day on your feet, they also aid in helping to reduce swelling in the feet and ankles and ward off varicose veins. I believe NFL star Joe

Namath wore pantyhose during practice and games for the same reason.

I say to "Indiana," if you are more comfortable with them on, it does not matter what anyone else thinks. They are your legs.

— Conservative South Dakotan

**Dear S.D.:** First, let's clear up the Joe Namath myth. He never said he wore pantyhose during games and practices. He appeared in an ad extolling their ability to make your legs look good.

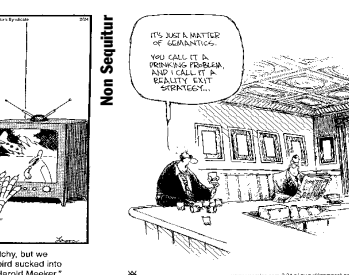
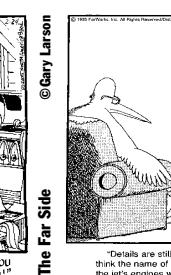
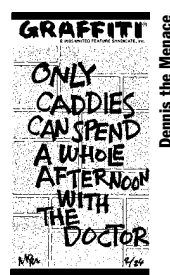
We don't give a rat's patoot what you wear under your clothes, and we know there are some men who wear pantyhose for support. But the reason pantyhose reduce swelling is because they are binding. Standard nylon pantyhose are not something a woman wears for comfort, but if you like them, get gezunder heyt (go in good health).

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"Mommy uses one of those, too — under her shoulder."



"Details are still sketchy, but we think the name of the bird sucked into the left's engines was Harold Meeker."





# After 'miserable time warp,' Jordan home again

## Outfielder hoping to rejuvenate career hampered by injuries since leaving Atlanta

BY PAUL NEWBERRY  
The Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — When Brian Jordan walked into the clubhouse for spring training, his old locker was waiting for him. So were plenty of friends.

Hey, it's like nothing really changed while Jordan was away from the Atlanta Braves.

"I was in a time warp," he quipped. "A miserable time warp."

Jordan rejoined the Braves a month before the start of spring training, trying to revive a career that's been plagued by injuries. He's almost 38, so nothing is guaranteed. But at least he's home again.

"They really took care of me," Jordan said Tuesday, sitting at his familiar stall in the clubhouse.

He played with the Braves from 1999-01, putting up a career-high 115 RBIs his first season and providing a fiery presence in the clubhouse.

Then, Jordan was traded to the Dodgers — a bitter blow considering Atlanta had been his home for more than a decade, dating back to his days as a Pro Bowl safety for the NFL Falcons.

He didn't like the way he was told — with a phone call instead of face to face — and he didn't want to leave his wife and kids.

But Jordan also understood that being traded was part of the business, especially when he was asked to land Gary Sheffield from Los Angeles.

"Sheff is a great player," Jordan said. "I just wanted to stay and play with him."

The last two seasons, Jordan wasn't able to play much with anyone. He underwent major knee surgery in 2003, limiting him to 66 games for the Dodgers. Moving on to Texas, he got in just 61 games a year ago, conceding that he should have given his ailing left knee more time to heal.



Atlanta Braves' Brian Jordan, center, laughs with teammates Jean Boscan, left, and Raul Mondesi on Tuesday at Cracker Jack Stadium in Kissimmee, Fla. After having major knee surgery, Jordan appeared in just 66 games for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2003 and 61 for the Texas Rangers last season.

"I would have been smart to sit out half a season last year," he said, rubbing a knee that is pockmarked with surgical scars.

"That's why you should always listen to your doctor."

Jordan batted .222 last season — his lowest average since he was a rookie with the Cardinals in 1992, still trying to make the switch from football to baseball.

Clearly, he wasn't the same player.

"You don't want to play worrying about injuries," Jordan said.

"I was scared to make any

**“He’s [Jordan] a high-energy guy.**

*That’s something we need. We were very successful when he was here before. We just need him to be healthy for about 150 games.”*

**Chipper Jones**  
Braves third baseman

"The knee has come around," Jordan insisted. "I feel like I can be myself again."

He was thrilled to hear from his agent that the Braves were interested. The team had two openings in the outfield, losing J.D. Drew as a free agent and trading Charles Thomas and Eli Marrero.

The Braves signed Raul Mondesi as Drew's replacement in right and brought in Jordan to compete with several younger players in left. By baseball standards, he

agreed to a bottom-of-the-barrel deal — one year at \$600,000, with a chance for another \$400,000 in performance and roster bonuses. Certainly, it's a far cry from the five-year, \$40 million deal that Jordan got for his first stint with the Braves.

But he doesn't look at himself as a part-time player, brought in to provide leadership to young outfielders such as Ryan Langerhans, Bill McCarthy and Jeff Francoeur.

"It's my competitive nature," Jordan said. "I want to play. I want to perform. I want to lead by example — on the field."

He's already smoothed over any hard feelings that were left from the 2001 trade, talking things out privately with General Manager John Schuerholz.

"Now I understand why he had to do it over the phone," Jordan said.

Those who played with Jordan during his first stint in Atlanta are thrilled to have him back.

"I'll take that guy in my foxhole any day," third baseman Chipper Jones said. "He's a high-energy guy. That's something we need. We were very successful when he was here before. We just need him to be healthy for about 150 games."

Jordan also has been hampered by wrist, shoulder and back injuries. Amazingly, he never had any serious problems while playing for the Falcons from 1989-91.

"I'm always giving him a hard time about that," hitting coach Terry Pendleton said. "I thought football was supposed to be the contact sport."

The Braves were to hold their first full-squad workout on Wednesday, but Jordan was among the regulars who came in several days ahead of schedule.

He couldn't wait to get home. "I feel good," Jordan said, making sure to tap his knuckles on the wooden frame of his locker a few times. "So far, so good."

# Yankees' Williams taking it one year at a time

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Bernie Williams thinks he's in the same situation he was in when he first came up to the New York Yankees.

He's one of the fixtures, along with Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera and Jorge Posada. Yet, he hasn't driven in 100 runs since 2002, hasn't hit 20 homers since the year before that. And while the Yankees traded Johnny Lofton during the offseason, Williams doesn't know how much longer he'll be New York's center fielder.

"I'm always thinking that it could be not mine at any minute, and that is the attitude that has kept me here," he said Tuesday before his first spring-training workout. "If I allowed myself now to think this is my job, sort of, and nobody else is going to take it, then I think it will take away from

my hunger and my aggressiveness to hold onto it. I'm still worried I'm going to lose my job at any second."

He's a five-time All-Star and a four-time Gold Glove, but his offense has tapered and his defense has become subpar, hampered by bad shoulders. For much of the offseason, he wondered whether the Yankees would sign Carlos Beltran.

"I knew financially speaking it would have been a big burden for the Yankees to take, especially after signing Randy [Johnson]," he said. "It would have been a great addition to the club."

Williams is just 36, not that old for top baseball players these days.

"Some days I feel like I want to retire right at that moment, and some days I feel like I want to play for the next 10 years," he said. "You see Randy and Roger [Clemens] and you realize that it could be done."

He's been slowed in recent days from a stomach virus he picked up this month during a five-day trip to Venezuela and Colombia as a cultural ambassador and said he felt a little weak. But he was excited for spring training and wanted to be on the field with his teammates.

By trading Lofton and bypassing Beltran, the Yankees showed confidence. Bubba Crosby and Doug Glanville are the only backup outfielders.

"I certainly am aware of the fact Bernie is not who he was 10 years ago when I got here, just by process of age," manager Joe Torre said. "I don't look at Bernie as playing 162 games."

He mentioned Hideki Matsui as a possible center fielder if Williams gets hurt. New York plans to discuss a contract extension with the 30-year-old Matsui, while there are no such plans for Williams, who is very likely to get a

\$3.5 million buyout of his \$15 million option for 2006, the final part of a seven-year deal that guaranteed him \$87.5 million.

"At this point in my career, I think we're going on a yearly basis," Williams said. "I think it goes back to maybe the years where I was younger, where I hadn't gotten this big contract. Every year I had to prove that I could play."

Tino Martinez, back with the Yankees for the first time since 2001, was happy to see his old teammate in the clubhouse.

"Bernie, Jeter, Jorge and Mariano, I couldn't imagine being here without those guys," Martinez said. "Other guys will be gone eventually. But those guys, that will be a strange day if those four guys are gone."

Boston outfielder Trot Nixon caused a flap when he said Feb. 15 that Williams, Jeter and Posada were the "Yankee type" but Alex Rodriguez was not.



New York Yankees' Bernie Williams hasn't had 100 RBIs since 2002 or hit 20 homers since '01.

Since then, there's been a lot of discussion about what makes a player a "true Yankee."

Williams said winning a World Series isn't a requirement and cited Don Mattingly.

"Who would argue that he's not a true Yankee?" Williams said. "Still, he didn't win a World Series."

# Bonds has a lot to say, just not on steroids

The Associated Press

Barry Bonds was outspoken on a variety of subjects upon arriving at spring training, just not on his involvement in the steroid scandal.

On Tuesday in Scottsdale, Ariz., the San Francisco Giants slugger proclaimed himself weary but ready for his run at Hank Aaron's home run record, called members of the media liars and pointed to problems in the world he considers much more important than steroids — such as alcoholism and drug abuse.

But, in his first remarks since his grand jury testimony was leaked to the San Francisco Chronicle and reported in December, Bonds had nothing to say, citing legal restraints. He did have harsh words, though, for the media and fans still consumed by the circumstances of his record-setting home run binge.

"You guys are like re-running stories," Bonds said to more than 100 reporters in attendance. "This is old stuff. It's like watching 'Sundford and Son.' It's almost comical, basically. . . Are you guys jealous, upset, disappointed, what?"

Bonds has 703 homers, trailing only Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714) on the career list. He believes he's coming under more scrutiny because he's closing in on Ruth.

"Because Babe Ruth is one of the greatest baseball players ever, and Babe Ruth ain't black, either," he said. "I'm black. Blacks, we go through a little more. . . I'm not a racist though, but I live in the real world. I'm fine with that."



**Barry Bonds dodged any questions about steroids and called the press liars during his news conference at Scottsdale Stadium.**

At Lakeland, Fla., reliever Ugueth Urbina arrived at the Detroit Tigers' camp, less than a week after his kidnapping mother was rescued in Venezuela after five months in captivity.

Urbina didn't speak to reporters upon his arrival, but was expected to Wednesday. He left the Tigers in September to travel to Venezuela following his mother's disappearance.

At Vero Beach, Fla., headhoned Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Milton Bradley weened no time asserting that he's the team's center fielder, despite the acquisition of J.D. Drew.

"I'm starting and I'm playing," Bradley said after reporting a day early to Dodgerstown. "My thoughts are, I'm the center fielder, and that's where I'm going to be playing."

Bradley moved to right field last season

when the Dodgers traded for Steve Finley for the playoff push, but he was told it was temporary. Manager Jim Tracy is considering making Drew a center fielder to help protect the oft-injured outfielder from going into the corners.

"There is not an opening day center fielder right now," Tracy said. "We're going to see all these guys (including left fielder Jayson Werth) in center field during spring training."

At Tampa, Fla., New York Yankees right fielder Gary Sheffield resumed hitting after three days off because of soreness in his left shoulder, which was operated on during the offseason.

"I felt a little fatigued. I felt weak. So I just cut it back for the last few days. I hit off the tee for two days straight. I probably rushed it," he said. "The strength is not there yet. The soreness, I don't feel that, the pain that I felt last year, so it's a big difference."

At Tempe, Ariz., AL MVP Vladimir Guerrero took his first swings of spring training, showing his thumb.

The Anaheim Angels slugger, who hurt his right thumb playing winter ball in the Dominican Republic, lined a series of pitches from the opposite field.

Manager Mike Scioscia doesn't necessarily condone big league stars playing winter ball, but understands it.

"You know how much Vladimir loves to play," the manager said. "But you're risking tens of millions of dollars from an investment standpoint."

At Clearwater, Fla., Placido Polanco isn't happy about being a backup to Chase Utley on the Philadelphia Phillies, and hopes he'll be with another team on open-

ing day.

"It's a situation I can't control," Polanco said before the team's first full-squad workout. "I don't like to be in this situation. I hate to be in this situation, but I have to live with it."

Polanco hit .298 with a career-high 17 homers and 55 RBIs in 126 games, but the Phillies plan to start Utley every day at second base and use Polanco in a reserve role.

At Mesa, Ariz., Aramis Ramirez would like to complete a new contract with the Chicago Cubs before the season begins.

"Hopefully we'll get something done. I haven't heard anything," Ramirez said before the Cubs first full-squad workout. "If we get something done, I hope we get it done in spring training."

Ramirez signed a one-year, \$8.95 million deal earlier this month, avoiding arbitration following his 36-homer, 103-RBI season that included a .318 batting average. But he would like a multiyear deal from the Cubs.

At Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Baltimore Orioles reliever Jorge Julio has been sidelined with a strained right forearm, an injury that could force him to miss the regular-season opener and definitely hinders his chances of winning the closer's job out of spring training.

Julio has inflammation of the flexor muscle and will be placed on a rehabilitative throwing program the next three weeks. The Orioles hope to have the right-hander back on the mound in the middle of their exhibition schedule, although there are no guarantees.

"This will let him back, but there's still a fair chance at this point that he could be ready for opening day," Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie said.

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## With different ground rules, no double talk

Jim Litke



what? I never — truthfully — I never really paid any attention to it, nor did I really care because I worried about me."

Apparently, Bonds just assumed all those teammates and opponents whose physiques blew up until they resembled inflatable dolls were spending just as much time in the weight room as he was. And further, that all of them had pals like Anderson always at the ready, with a remedy for whatever ailed them. Viewed that way, the superizing of baseball looks no more suspicious than what happens in a class at Jenny Craig, only in reverse.

Except almost nobody is buying it. Even those fans Bonds said have finally warmed up to him.

"I have probably gotten the best relationship with fans through all of this," he recalled, "than I ever have in my entire career. . . coming over to me — the things that I've always wanted, to come over to me and just shake my hand and say, 'You know what? Who cares. You're a good ballplayer. You proved it. You know, you've done this, you've done this. We're all supporting you.'"

"I've never heard that before," Bonds said. Funny he'd say that, since just about every other disgraced ballplayer has heard it at one time or another.

Keith Hernandez was cheered when he returned to the ballpark after being involved in a cocaine scandal that plagued the game in the 1970s. Pete Rose got the loudest ovation at the All-Star game a few years back, despite being drummed out of baseball for gambling on his own team. Wil Cordero was accused of beating his first wife, pleaded guilty to assaulting his second and, because he knows how to

**"I never really paid any attention to it, nor did I really care because I worried about me."**

**Barry Bonds**  
Major league player

hit a baseball, too, had little trouble finding jobs in several towns with "supportive" fans. As recently as Monday, Jason Giambi was openly celebrated at the Kansas complex in Tampa, Fla., despite telling the BALCO grand jury tales about injecting steroids into his own butt.

But the hometown fans cheering for all those ballplayers didn't believe they had been wronged, just unappreciated. No one seriously doubts Bonds' immense talent, work ethic, or even his dedication, just his contention that the sum of those parts is all that went into the whole.

"If that's the case, we're going to go way back into 19th, 18th centuries in rehabbing the sport and we'll crush a lot of things in a lot of spots, if that's what you guys want," Bonds said. "If you don't want a lot of things out of the sports world, then we can go back into the 1800s and basically asterisk a lot of sports if that's what you choose and that's what you want to do."

He's right, of course. Blacks and Latinos were excluded from the major leagues when Babe Ruth set his home run mark, and rumors of widespread use of amphetamines — known as "greenies" — were around when Henry Aaron set his.

And so the crucial difference might be that it is much tougher to look away at the moment than to look back — no matter how much or how often Bonds comes back.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at [jlitke@ap.org](mailto:jlitke@ap.org)

# Carter faces former team, gets overshadowed by Rose

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jason Rose kicked a little sand in Vince Carter's face.

Coming off an All-Star break beach vacation, Rose outplayed Carter in the former Toronto Raptors' first game against his old team, leading the Raptors to a 100-82 road victory over the New Jersey Nets on Tuesday night.

Carter, traded from Toronto to New Jersey in December after seven seasons with the Raptors, missed several drives, was off-target with his jumper, committed four turnovers and missed four free throws.

"He probably was a little tired from All-Star weekend," Rose said. "While he was running up and down the court throwing it off the backboard, I was lying on the beach drinking a fruity drink with an umbrella."

"So I probably gave myself an unfair advantage," Carter said. Rose scored 30 points on 12-for-15 shooting and did a fine defensive job on Carter.

"I won't say it was necessarily a personal challenge, but it was a reason to come out and want to play well. In Toronto, definitely all eyes were on this game," Rose said. "Being the leader of the team, I tried to lead by example."

Rose also led the Raptors on a 14-4 run early in the fourth quarter.

"It's disappointing, the way we played. I think we played better," Carter said. "It's always a concern coming out of the All-Star break how your team makes it come back after the break. It looked OK early, it got worse the rest of the night."

Rose had a three-pointer early in the fourth quarter as the shot clock expired before Carter stole it with his lone highlight-reel move of the night, spinning 360 degrees while he drove beneath the basket before spinning in a reverse layup.

Rose answered by driving around Carter for a layup, then stealing the ball from Carter as he was double-teamed. The steal led to Donyell Marshall's three-point shot that made it 79-66, and Carter followed by missing a running jumper.

Chris Bosh had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Raptors, and Milt Palacio added 13 points. Jason Kidd scored 20 points for the Nets.

**SuperSonics 87, Rockets 85:** Ray Allen scored 21 points, capped by two free throws with 16 seconds left, to help visiting Seattle snuff Houston's winning streak at eight games.

The Rockets had a chance to tie it with 5 seconds left, but Scott Padgett's three-point attempt was short and Allen came up with the rebound.

Rashard Lewis added 23 points for Seattle. Yao Ming led Houston



**Toronto Raptors' Jason Rose, right, drives to the basket as he is guarded by New Jersey Nets' Jason Kidd during the second quarter Tuesday night in East Rutherford, N.J. Rose led all scorers with 30 points as the Raptors beat the Nets 100-82.**

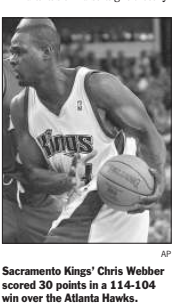
with 30 points.

**Bulls 105, Hawks 101 (OT):** At Chicago, Ben Gordon hit five three-pointers in the fourth quarter and overtime and finished with 29 points for the Bulls.

Miami center Shaquille O'Neal did not return after straining his left knee in a fall in the opening minutes. X-rays were negative. After Miami's Eddie Jones forced overtime with a buzzer-beater, Gordon scored the first eight points in the extra period.

Dwayne Wade led Miami with 21 points and 11 assists.

**Pacers 108, Magic 84:** At Orlando, Fla., Jermaine O'Neal scored 20 points in 22 minutes and Fred Jones added 18 points in Indiana's third straight victory.



**Sacramento Kings' Chris Webber scored 30 points in a 114-104 win over the Atlanta Hawks.**

Jamaal Tinsley had 11 points and six assists after missing all but two minutes of the past eight games because of a foot injury.

Jameer Nelson had 15 points for Orlando.

**Pistons 97, Knicks 88:** At Auburn Hills, Mike, Richard Hamilton and Tayshaun Prince each scored 19 points, leading Detroit to its fifth straight victory and 10th in 11 games.

Chauncey Billups added 15 points and eight assists, and Rashad Wallace had 12 points, eight rebounds and four blocks.

Jamal Crawford had 23 points for the Knicks.

**Kings 114, Hawks 104:** At Sacramento, Calif., Chris Webber scored 30 points, Mike Bibby had 23 and the Kings beat Atlanta for just their second victory in eight games. Brad Miller added 16 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists for the Kings.

At Harrington scored 25 points for Atlanta, which has lost 16 straight road games and five in a row overall.

**Lakers 104, Celtics 95:** At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant and Lamar Odom each scored 21 points for Los Angeles, and Chris Mihm had 19 points and 15 rebounds.

Pierre Pierce and Ricky Davis each scored 25 points for Boston.

**Bucks 112, Bobcats 102:** At Charlotte, N.C., Michael Redd scored 39 points on 15-for-24 shooting after missing Milwaukee's previous three games because of a sprained left finger.

Brevin Knight led Charlotte with 19 points.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	22	12	.646	1 1/2
Philadelphia	22	12	.646	0
New York	21	12	.636	4
Toronto	22	12	.646	0
New Jersey	21	13	.615	6

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	22	12	.646	0
Chicago	21	13	.615	1 1/2
Minnesota	21	13	.615	1 1/2
Portland	21	13	.615	1 1/2
Utah	21	13	.615	1 1/2

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	21	12	.636	0
Dallas	21	12	.636	0
Houston	22	12	.646	0
Mempis	20	13	.606	1 1/2
New Orleans	21	13	.615	1 1/2

Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	21	12	.636	0
Minnesota	21	12	.636	0
Denver	21	12	.636	0
Portland	21	12	.636	0
Utah	21	12	.636	0

Pacific Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	21	12	.636	0
Sacramento	21	12	.636	0
L.A. Lakers	21	12	.636	0
L.A. Clippers	21	12	.636	0
Golden State	21	12	.636	0

Tuesday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana 108, Orlando 84	22	12	.646	0
Milwaukee 112, Charlotte 102	22	12	.646	0
HOUSTON 97, New York 88	22	12	.646	0
Toronto 100, New Jersey 82	22	12	.646	0
Atlanta 104, Charlotte 97	22	12	.646	0
Sacramento 114, LA Lakers 104	22	12	.646	0

Wednesday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami at Indiana	23	12	.659	0
Chicago at Cleveland	23	12	.659	0
Memphis at Washington	23	12	.659	0
New Jersey at Milwaukee	23	12	.659	0
Boston at New Orleans	23	12	.659	0
Dallas at Utah	23	12	.659	0
Boston at Denver	23	12	.659	0
Houston at San Antonio	23	12	.659	0
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix	23	12	.659	0
L.A. Lakers at Portland	23	12	.659	0
Atlanta at Golden State	23	12	.659	0

Thursday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia at New York	24	12	.667	0
Sacramento at Dallas	24	12	.667	0
Detroit at LA Lakers	24	12	.667	0
Charlotte at Atlanta	24	12	.667	0
Denver at Milwaukee	24	12	.667	0
Boston at Indiana	24	12	.667	0
Toronto at Milwaukee	24	12	.667	0
Washington at Chicago	24	12	.667	0
Boston at Utah	24	12	.667	0
Atlanta at Portland	24	12	.667	0
Atlanta at Dallas	24	12	.667	0

Friday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte at Atlanta	25	12	.673	0
Denver at Milwaukee	25	12	.673	0
Washington at Chicago	25	12	.673	0
Boston at Utah	25	12	.673	0
Atlanta at Portland	25	12	.673	0
Atlanta at Dallas	25	12	.673	0

Saturday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte at Atlanta	26	12	.684	0
Denver at Milwaukee	26	12	.684	0
Washington at Chicago	26	12	.684	0
Boston at Utah	26	12	.684	0
Atlanta at Portland	26	12	.684	0
Atlanta at Dallas	26	12	.684	0

Sunday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte at Atlanta	27	12	.692	0
Denver at Milwaukee	27	12	.692	0
Washington at Chicago	27	12	.692	0
Boston at Utah	27	12	.692	0
Atlanta at Portland	27	12	.692	0
Atlanta at Dallas	27	12	.692	0

Monday's games	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte at Atlanta	28	12	.700	0
Denver at Milwaukee	28	12	.700	0
Washington at Chicago	28	12	.700	0
Boston at Utah	28	12	.700	0
Atlanta at Portland	28	12	.700	0
Atlanta at Dallas	28	12	.700	0

Tuesday	W	L	Pct	GB
Pacers 108, Magic 84	22	12	.646	0
INDIANA — Jackson 41-13, O'Neal 18-15, Foster 4-4, Miller 2-2, Williams 2-5, Tinsley 4-11, Johnson 4-8-2-10, Jones 5-9-15-18, Crothers 2-3-3, Harrison 2-5-4-6, Jones 3-5-0-7, Gill 0-1-0-0. Totals 108-84.	22	12	.646	0

Three-Point Goals—Indiana 8-17 (Jones 3-6, Miller 2-2, Williams 2-5, Tinsley 4-11, Johnson 4-8-2-10, Jones 5-9-15-18, Crothers 2-3-3, Harrison 2-5-4-6, Jones 3-5-0-7, Gill 0-1-0-0. Totals 108-84.)	22	12	.646	0
Rebounds—Indiana 41-17 (Jones 3-6, Miller 2-2, Williams 2-5, Tinsley 4-11, Johnson 4-8-2-10, Jones 5-9-15-18, Crothers 2-3-3, Harrison 2-5-4-6, Jones 3-5-0-7, Gill 0-1-0-0. Totals 108-84.)	22	12	.646	0
Assists—Indiana 21-17 (Jones 3-6, Miller 2-2, Williams 2-5, Tinsley 4-11, Johnson 4-8-2-10, Jones 5-9-15-18, Crothers 2-3-3, Harrison 2-5-4-6, Jones 3-5-0-7, Gill 0-1-0-0. Totals 108-84.)	22	12	.646	0
Steals—Indiana 12-17 (Jones 3-6, Miller 2-2, Williams 2-5, Tinsley 4-11, Johnson 4-8-2-10, Jones 5-9-15-18, Crothers 2-3-3, Harrison 2-5-4-6, Jones 3-5-0-7, Gill 0-1-0-0. Totals 108-84.)	22	12	.646	0
Blocks—Indiana 12-17 (Jones 3-6, Miller 2-2, Williams 2-5, Tinsley 4-11, Johnson 4-8-2-10, Jones 5-9-15-18, Crothers 2-3-3, Harrison 2-5-4-6, Jones 3-5-0-7, Gill 0-1-0-0. Totals 108-84.)	22	12	.646	0

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	Three-Point Goals—Toronto 8-20 (Rose 3-4, Marshall 3-5, Murray 1-1, Alston 1-2, E. Williams 0-1, Bonner 0-1, Peterson 0-6), New Jersey 4-15 (Kidd 3-6, Thomas 1-2, Vaughn 0-3, Carter 0-3, Robinson 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 55 (Bosh 12), New Jersey 50 (Collins 9). Assists—Toronto 20 (Alston 6), New Jersey 18 (Kidd 8). Total Fouls—Toronto 22, New Jersey 20. A—14,088.
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# Sub Scott helps lift Tar Heels over Wolfpack

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — All Melvin Scott needed was a chance.

Stuck on the bench lately in a horrid shooting slump, the senior guard replaced the ill Rashad McCants in the starting lineup and scored 12 points in No. 2 North Carolina's 81-71 victory over North Carolina State on Tuesday night.

Raymond Felton had 21 points, seven assists and five rebounds for the Tar Heels (23-3, 11-2), who extended their lead in the Atlantic Coast Conference to a game over No. 6 Wake Forest.

Jawad Williams added 15 points for North Carolina and Sean May and freshman Marvin Williams each scored 14.

## Men's Top 25 Roundup

McCants didn't even make the 25-mile trip because of an intestinal disorder, giving Scott his second start of the year. He had scored only 10 points in his previous four games and was 0-for-8 from three-point range in that span.

That wasn't a problem against the Wolfpack (15-8, 5-8) on Tuesday night. Perhaps inspired by his performance, Scott's teammates also found the range from beyond the arc, finishing 10-for-21.

With N.C. State creeping closer in the second half, the Tar Heels made the most of three second-chance opportunities, turning each into three-pointers to pull away.

Julius Hodge had 20 points on a season-high four threes for the Wolfpack, who had a modest two-game winning streak snapped. Any hopes of a fourth straight trip to the NCAA tournament likely requires victories in their final three games, including a matchup against Wake Forest to end the season.

**LSU 61, No. 16 Alabama 59:** At Baton Rouge, La., Ross Neltner's tip-in at the buzzer gave the Tigers the victory and denied the Crimson Tide the chance to clinch the SEC West.

Alabama (21-5, 10-3 Southeastern Conference) trailed 55-48 with 4:56 to play but a banked three-pointer by Kennedy Winston with 14 seconds left tied it at 59.

LSU's Brandon Bass dribbled the ball outside the three-point arc for several seconds then drove to the basket with 2 seconds left. His shot bounced off the rim but Neltner was there for the rebound.

The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for Alabama.

The Tigers (16-9, 9-4) improved to 13-1 at home this season.

Tack Minor led LSU with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Neltner, who came in averaging 2.7 points, finished with five.

# Huskies: Win is timely for Collier

HUSKERS, FROM BACK PAGE

The Huskers (12-12, 5-8) used a 12-0 run from a 32-32 halftime tie to break the game open.

Nebraska's biggest victory in Collier's five years came on the same day a columnist for the Omaha World-Herald, the state's largest newspaper, called for his firing.

"We don't pay a lot of attention to that," Collier said.

Sutton said he's well aware of the heat Collier has been taking and that if he had to lose to one team in the Big 12, he's glad it was Nebraska.

"They've had a tough season, and they are a better ballclub than their record would indicate," Sutton said. "Barry is a very, very good coach. I hope these people get off his case and start showing him some appreciation."

After the buzzer, students from both ends stormed the court. Collier and his players then waved their hands in the air as if they were directing the pep band in a rendition of "There Is No Place Like Nebraska."

The players wound their way through a gauntlet of students, high-fiving them as they headed to the locker room.

John Lucas led Oklahoma State with 20 points. Joey Graham, the Big 12's second-leading scorer, was held to 12 before fouling out in the final minute.

"We wanted to try to pay special attention to Joey Graham, who we think is an NBA first-rounder for sure and probably a lottery pick," Collier said. "He had his way with us last year. We also had to keep John Lucas under wraps."

Freshman James On Curry, averaging 14.3 points since joining the Cowboys' starting lineup seven games ago, was held to seven points, two in the second half.

The Huskers used the 12-0 run to go ahead 44-32. Maric scored twice in a row before John Turek highlighted the spurt with a big dunk off a pass from Jake Muhleisen.

Oklahoma State didn't score for the opening 6:16 of the second half until Graham bulled his way in for a layup.

After Terrence Crawford got the Cowboys within 46-36, McCray hit a three-pointer and Corey Simms hit a jumper for the Huskers' biggest lead, 49-36.

Nebraska played to the half-time tie despite going 6-35 without a field goal. The Huskers capitalized on 12 turnovers in the first half, converting them into 17 points.

Two threes by Lucas and another by Daniel Bobik keyed a 13-0 run that gave the Cowboys an 18-7 lead.

"It was right there, and we didn't seize the moment," Lucas said. "That's what it bed down to. We didn't come out hungry. They stepped up, and we didn't play hard."

# Clemson pulls off sweep of Maryland

By Jon Solomon

The State (Columbia, S.C.)

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — For get the turtle, fear the Tiger.

More specifically, fear Sharrod Ford.

Clemson never trailed in a 97-93 victory over Maryland on Tuesday night before 17,950 at Comcast Center.

In another dominating performance against his home-state school, Ford scored 24 points and just missed a triple double to help Oliver Purnell, another Maryland native, lead the Tigers to their first sweep of Maryland since 1996-97.

Ford, a native of Suitland, Md., scored 17 of his points after halftime and finished with 10 rebounds and a career-high nine blocks.

"I always dreamed of going to a home-state school," said Ford, who made seven of eight shots after halftime. "But since I couldn't, I guess I had to dream about beating one."

In Clemson's 88-73 victory against Maryland on Feb. 1, Ford tied a career high with 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Until this month, Maryland had won 13 consecutive games against Clem-

son, which was the second-longest active winning streak against one opponent in the ACC.

Clemson shot 58.2 percent, including 62.5 percent in the second half, in Tuesday's victory against the defending ACC tournament champions. The Tigers made eight of 12 three-pointers.

The Tigers' point total was the school's highest on the road in an ACC regulation game.

"You could see the look in their eye that they knew they were going to win, confident they were going to win," Purnell said. "They could answer any challenge. I was just real proud of them to-night, particularly coming off" a 32-point loss at North Carolina on Saturday.

There were some anxious moments. Clemson saw an 11-point lead with 3 minutes left whittled to four when Maryland's Travis Garrison made two free throws worth 1:44 on the clock.

Gheyenne Moore and Olu Babalola then made four consecutive free throws for the Tigers, who converted 11 of 18 foul shots in the final 3:09.

Maryland led for one fleeting moment in 80 minutes this season against the Tigers. In both games, Clemson jumped to double-digit leads immediately.



Clemson's Sam Perry (32) drives to the basket against Maryland's Nik Caner-Medley in the first half of Clemson's victory Tuesday night.

## NBA briefs

figures in points and rebounds all but once.

If Dampier is out the full three weeks, he'd miss 12 more games.

**Bobcats owner considering money-back guarantee**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Charlotte Bobcats owner Bob Johnson is considering a money-back guarantee to some season-ticket holders if they are not satisfied with

the expansion team next season.

Johnson, speaking before the Bobcats game against Milwaukee on Tuesday, said he would likely offer the guarantee to "non premium" ticket holders in Charlotte's new arena. The arena is set to open next fall, and ticket prices will rise.

"I think the arena is really going to be the watershed event that will awaken the deep fan/sponsor support that we expect every year," Johnson said. "We may say 'Come in, sample our product, and if you don't like it, we may refund your deposit.'"

# Mavs' Dampier could miss 3 weeks

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Dallas Mavericks center Erick Dampier has a stress fracture in his right foot and is expected to miss two to three weeks.

The 6-foot-11 Dampier is averaging 9.5 points and 8.7 rebounds for the season, but he was producing far more than that over the eight games before injuring his foot Feb. 15 at Golden State. He opened that stretch with a career-high 26 rebounds and capped it with a season-high 19 points; in between, he had double

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# Federer survives test from qualifier

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Roger Federer, the world's top-ranked player, rallied from a set down Wednesday to beat qualifier Ivo Minic of the Czech Republic 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (5) in the first round of the Dubai

## Sports briefs

### Championship.

Federer, targeting his third consecutive title here, had to fight to every point against the 20-year-old, who has won just five matches on the ATP Tour.

Minic managed his opponent stroke-for-stroke and often left Federer stranded with some audacious passes from the back of the court and deft touches at the net.

The match went with service until the 17th game, when Minic's first serve deserted him and Federer broke the Czech's serve.

Also on Wednesday, Andre Agassi cruised past Spain's Feliciano Lopez 6-1, 6-3.

Eighth-seeded Ivan Ljubicic, beaten by Federer for the title in Dubai on Sunday, 6-4, 7-5 to Rene Lissand of France 6-1, 6-1.

Sixth seed Nikolay Davydenko and No. 5 seed Tommy Robredo won second-round matches on Wednesday.

### Martinez upsets Myskina

DHAHA, Qatar — Unseeded Christina Martinez of Spain continued her dream run Wednesday by upsetting defending champion Anastasia Myskina of Russia in the Qatar Open.

Martinez, 32, beat the two-time Qatar Open champion 6-4, 7-5 to set up a quarterfinal match Thursday against Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova, who defeated sixth-seeded Elena Bovina of Russia 6-0, 3-6, 6-3.

Earlier Wednesday, second-seeded Maria Sharapova of Russia eased past Gisela Dulko of Argentina 6-1, 6-1 in 74 minutes to reach the quarterfinals.

### IOC tours New York City

NEW YORK — A contingent of Olympic officials and media sites in Queens and Manhattan including the National Tennis Center, Madison Square Garden and the proposed home of a Manhattan stadium.

The members of the IOC Evaluation Commission were scheduled to look at the rail yards where the stadium would be built. The city envisions the stadium as the site for the opening ceremony for the 2012 Games. The Queens visit included a stop at the National



**World No. 1 Roger Federer, above, rallied to beat Ivo Minic of the Czech Republic 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (5) on Wednesday in Dubai.**

Tennis Center, home of the U.S. Open, and another at the site of the proposed Olympic Village.

The members have already toured Madrid and London, and will visit Paris and Moscow before picking a host city on July 6.

The group will not speak publicly about New York's bid until the visit is completed Thursday.

### NASCAR to broadcast on Sirius Satellite Radio

NEW YORK — In the latest push to ramp up its programming slate, Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. reached an agreement to broadcast NASCAR races and related events over a five-year period for \$107.5 million, luring the broadcast rights away from rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc.

The deal, announced Tuesday, calls for Sirius to become the exclusive satellite radio partner for NASCAR. The agreement was a coup for Sirius, the smaller of the two satellite radio providers.

Both Sirius and XM have been committing large sums of money to the drive in advertising as part of their drive to build up their businesses and attract customers.

Sirius also has an all-NFL channel and a deal with College Sports Television, which enables Sirius to air the games of 23 major college teams — including Southern California, Notre Dame and LSU. The company also signed a deal in November to air the men's NCAA tournament through 2007.

### Boxer Spadafino sentenced to five years for shooting

PITTSBURGH — Former IBF lightweight champion Paul Spadafino was sentenced to up to five years in state prison for shooting his girlfriend 16 months ago, but he could get out in six months if he completes a boot-camp program.

The sentencing closes the most serious chapter of several alcohol- or drug-fueled run-ins for Spadafino, and the relatively lenient sentence could enable him to resume his career.

Spadafino pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and a weapons violation in December for shooting Nadine Russo in the abdomen on Oct. 26, 2003, because he was upset she had flattened two tires on his sports utility vehicle. The couple has since become engaged and had a child, Geno.

Spadafino's promoter, Michael Aciri, said there are no plans for Spadafino to fight again.

"Really, it's beating alcohol abuse, it's not about career plans at this point," Aciri said.

# Deluge delays Match Play

## World Golf Championship event to start on Thursday

By DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Hours after the announcement that the Match Play Championship would not begin until Thursday because of the saturated course at La Costa, one match already was in the books.

Padraig Harrington outlasted Darren Clarke on the practice range.

Leave it to a pair of Irishmen to ignore the cold rain that fell late Tuesday afternoon, after every one else had left the course and creeks again spilled over the banks and across the fairway.

Clarke hit chips around the green as swing coach Butch Harmon watched from under an umbrella. The 2000 Match Play championship finally left, pausing only to light a cigar.

Harrington, who arrived Monday to play in Malaysia, tossed a dozen balls in the muck of a bunker and began blasting out, spraying mud on his pants. Then he turned to the caddy, range, asked for his 5-iron and continued to beat balls in the gloaming.

The third shot was as pure as it gets.

"I should play in the rain more often," Harrington said.

That can be arranged. Just move to California.

The final two legs of the West Coast Swing have turned into the "Wet" Coast Swing. First came rain at Riviera, leading to the first 36-hole event on the PGA Tour in 1995 when Adam Long won the Nissan Open in a playoff Monday. One day later, Wednesday's start of the Accenture Match Play Championship was pushed back one day.

PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell said La Costa would be available for practice rounds Wednesday, but the staff did not think the course was suitable for a tournament.

"It's totally saturated," Russell said. "But based on this weather forecast, it's going to get nothing but better. If we get a day of sun and some breeze, it will get dramatically better, and we're going to present a better golf course for the players."

That means a full day of golf

### Match Play Championship

At La Costa Resort and Spa, Carlsbad, Calif.

Thursday's first-round matches (Seedings in parentheses)

**Bobby Jones bracket**

Vijay Singh (1) vs. Shingo Katayama (16)

Jonathan Kaye (8) vs. Chris DiMarco (4)

Justin Leonard (5) vs. Fred Couples (3)

Stewart Cink (2) vs. Fred Funk (15)

Chad (7) vs. Tom Lehman (14)

Dave Love III (9) vs. Chris Riley (11)

Lee Westwood (6) vs. Steve Flesch (11)

**Sam Snead bracket**

Retief Goosen (1) vs. Stephen Leach (16)

Peter Lonard (8) vs. Fred Couples (3)

Mike Angelini (4) vs. Rod Pampling (13)

Lucas Donald (5) vs. Zach Johnson (12)

Mike Weir (2) vs. Craig T. Triplett (15)

Tim Clark (7) vs. Craig Parry (18)

Darren Clarke (3) vs. Graeme McDowell (14)

Todd Hamilton (6) vs. Robert Alcock (11)

**Day Player bracket**

Tiger Woods (1) vs. Nick Price (16)

David Feherty (8) vs. Charles Howell III (9)

Kenny Perry (4) vs. Thomas Levet (13)

Luke Donald (5) vs. Zach Johnson (12)

Padraig Harrington (2) vs. Jeff Maggert (15)

Scott Verplank (7) vs. Jerry Kelly (18)

Stuart Appleby (3) vs. Joakim Haeggberg (14)

Jim Furyk (6) vs. Ian Poulter (11)

**Sam Snead bracket**

Phil Mickelson (1) vs. Loren Roberts (16)

David Feherty (8) vs. Charles Howell III (9)

Davis Love (4) vs. Richard Green (13)

Scott Verplank (7) vs. Jerry Kelly (18)

Sergio Garcia (2) vs. Alex Colpa (15)

Scott Verplank (7) vs. Jerry Kelly (18)

Adam Scott (3) vs. Trevor Immelman (14)

Shigeki Maruyama (6) vs. David Howell (11)

will be washed out for the second time in as many weeks on tour, and the second time in as many years at La Costa.

The second round was postponed a year, leading to two rounds Friday and Saturday, followed by the 36-hole final on Sunday. Tiger Woods won last year, defeating Davis Love III, for his second consecutive PGA Tour title.

"If you get all the way to the finals, it's a physical grind," Woods said Tuesday morning, before the announcement that the first round had been delayed. "Match play is an emotional roller coaster, because of the momentum switches that can happen in one hole, two holes."

Unlike the NCAA basketball tournament, there is no such thing as an upset at La Costa.

Last year was the first time in the six-year history of this World Golf Championship event that two of the top-four seeds made it to the last match.

Jeff Maggert won the first year as the No. 24 seed, followed by Tiger Woods, who won the second year as the No. 19 seed (No. 55) and Kevin Sutherland (No. 62). Woods won the past two years as the top seed, although he starts this year as No. 2.

Vijay Singh is the No. 1 seed and will play Shingo Katayama of Japan.

"He's a good player. I don't know how he's playing coming into this event, but I have to treat him very strong," Singh said. "I'm going to go out and see if I can play my game and play the best I can and see if I can finish it off."

Singh is coming off a year's first missed cut in as many as, defending champion at Pebble Beach. No one misses the cut from the 64-man field at La Costa, although this event has not been held to the 41-year-old Fijian. He has never advanced out of the second round, even against a watered-down field in Australia four years ago.

While most players like the idea of match play during a full schedule of stroke play, Singh was indifferent.

"I don't mind it," he said. "I think it depends on how you play. Last year, I didn't play very well. I'm driving the ball much better than I did last year, and I've fixed my irons."

Ernie Els, ranked third in the world, is the only player who elected not to come.

Phil Mickelson lives about 20 miles away in Rancho Santa Fe, and while he didn't play last week in the Nissan Open, he played a couple of practice rounds at La Costa. The No. 3 seed, "He's coming off a week-to-beat win on the PGA Tour with very margins, although that wasn't his first any good this week."

He shot 73 in the first round at Phoenix, then rebounded with a career-low 60. Had that been match play, Mickelson probably wouldn't have advanced out of the first round. A week later, he opened with a course-record 62 at Spyglass, closed with a 73 and still won by four shots.

"I would have been knocked out the first round half the time at Phoenix," Mickelson said. "And at AT&T, I would have done great all the way through and the last match have been knocked out. In match play ... you need some luck to win, you can't just rely on you're going to get to play well six rounds in a row."

Right now, all they want to do is play.

# NHL participation cleared for Worlds

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL will allow league personnel to take part in the world hockey championships this spring even if the lockout that canceled the season continues.

"After due consideration to all of the relevant and sometimes competing concerns, we have decided that NHL management personnel (including NHL head and general managers) will be entirely free to participate in the upcoming IIHF World Championships in the same manner and in the

same or similar capacities as in prior years," NHL chief legal officer David Daly said Tuesday in a statement.

That leaves the door open for Wayne Gretzky to lead Team Canada in the tournament that starts April 30 in Canada May 15. Gretzky, 39, is Phoenix Coyotes' star center partner, was the executive director of the two-time defending champions.

It is expected that most NHL players will take part in the tournament that will be held in Austria.

Usually, a handful of players join their national teams once

their teams are eliminated from the playoffs. But now that many have missed a season due to the lockout, they probably will be looking to play in competitive games.

With the cancellation of the season last week, and a failed last-ditch effort to resurrect it, Phoenix Coyotes' star center partner, was the executive director of the two-time defending champions.

The league will hold a meeting with the board of governors in New York on Tuesday. The players' association will gather its rank-and-file members for a meeting Tuesday in Toronto.



Quarterback Drew Bledsoe was released by Buffalo on Tuesday and almost immediately agreed to join former coach Bill Parcells in Dallas.

## QB Bledsoe headed for reunion in Dallas

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Drew Bledsoe was released by the Buffalo Bills on Tuesday and within hours, according to several reports, agreed to a deal with the Dallas Cowboys.

Bledsoe's reunion with coach Bill Parcells, who drafted the quarterback No. 1 overall and guided him to the Super Bowl in New England, was first reported by Dallas-Fort Worth television station KTVT and later by ESPN.com. The Dallas Morning News and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. All cited sources.

Bledsoe, agent David Dunn and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones did not immediately return phone calls to The Associated Press.

The Bills announced plans to release him last week, and the Cowboys were prepared with an offer right away. Bledsoe was ready for it, too, even saying last week that "Dallas is intriguing for obvious reasons."

"Playing for my old coach and then looking at the weapons they have offensively, that's intriguing," Bledsoe said in a conference call with reporters. "But there are a number of teams that are possibilities, and Dallas is one of those."

Bledsoe also indicated that he'd rather retire than not be a starter, so there's little doubt he'll be taking over the Dallas offense, especially considering Parcells' affinity for his former players. Among his receivers will be receiver Terry Glenn, who caught passes from Bledsoe from 1996-2001 in New England.

The Cowboys have said all along they wanted to go with a veteran quarterback rather than turn to one of their youngsters, Drew Henson or Tony Romo. Henson threw just 18 passes as a rookie and Romo has never thrown a pass in his two NFL seasons. Bledsoe's arrival also means that Vinny Testaverde won't return.

Although Bledsoe is eight years younger than Testaverde, he's

still considered on the downside of his career.

His statistics last season in guiding Buffalo to a 9-7 record were comparable to what Testaverde did in Dallas' 6-10 season.

Bledsoe had 20 touchdowns and 16 interceptions, while Testaverde had 17 touchdowns and 20 interceptions. The Bills went into the final Sunday of the season with a chance to make the playoffs after an 0-4 start.

A record-setting passer in his youth with Parcells, Bledsoe has thrown for more than 300 yards only once in the past two seasons.

He made the Pro Bowl the year before that, his first with Buffalo after losing his job in New England to Tom Brady. He was 23-25 in three seasons with the Bills, never reaching the postseason.

Bledsoe said that after the Bills told him they were releasing him and turning the job over to last season's top pick, J.P. Losman, he spent about half a day "trying to figure out if I had the energy to get after it again."

"But then I started to look at some of the opportunities out there and some of the teams where I could possibly go to, I really started to get excited about it," he said. "I have an absolute love for this game, I have a passion for it. ... I would excitement now to see what the next thing is. I'm looking forward to it."

In Dallas, Bledsoe will face a fan base still yearning for someone to carry on the tradition of Roger Staubach and Troy Aikman.

Bledsoe will be the eighth starting quarterback the Cowboys have used since Aikman. The franchise also has just one post-season victory since its last Super Bowl championship, which came after the 1995 season.

But there will be some solid players around Bledsoe, primarily running back Julius Jones and tight end Jason Witten. The receiving corps will include Glenn, who was hurt most of last season, and Keyshawn Johnson.

# Seahawks sign Hasselbeck; Alexander, James franchised

The Associated Press

The Seattle Seahawks made sure Matt Hasselbeck will be their starting quarterback for a few more years, and designated running back Shaun Alexander as their franchise player on a busy day in the NFL.

Adam Vinatieri, Edgerrin James and Charles Woodson were also among a handful of players who received the franchise tag by their teams Tuesday.

By designating potential free agents as franchise players, teams have the opportunity to retain them for next season. Under the designation, a team is required to offer the player a one-year contract equal to the average of the top five salaries at his position last season, or give him a 20 percent raise, whichever is greater.

Cleveland released quarterback Jeff Garcia, formally ending a one-year relationship that seemed doomed from the outset. There was no fanfare as the club chose not to release a statement or give a reason for cutting ties with Garcia.

Although free agency officially begins March 2, much high-priced dealing already has taken place. Seattle has made the biggest moves, ensuring that three of its top offensive players stayed in town.

Last week, the Seahawks signed left tackle Walter Jones to a seven-year, \$52.5 million deal. Hasselbeck, who was sure to be one of the top players on the free-agent market, got a deal for \$49.4 for six years — including a \$16 million signing bonus.

"We weren't going to let Matt go," Seahawks CEO Tod Leiweke said. "This guy had to come back for us to be effective."

The Seahawks also ensured that they can keep Alexander — or get two first-round picks for him. Alexander, who finished a yard behind the Jets' Curtis Martin in the NFL rushing race, is guaranteed \$6.3 million although the Seahawks said they will be working a long-term deal.

All this occurred in the midst of a front-office shakeup — general manager Bob Ferguson announced his resignation Tuesday.

Vinatieri, whose one-year deal won the Super Bowls in 2002 and 2004, was designated the Patriots' franchise player for the second time. He got the same tag in 2002, then signed a three-year deal which is about to expire.

The Patriots are expected to renegotiate a new contract before the deadline on March 16 to re-sign players with the franchise designation.

Indianapolis made James its non-exclusive franchise player — it wasn't clear whether the Colts would keep him protected or try to work a long-term deal.

The running back was tendered a one-year contract for a little more than \$8 million, but he could offer his services to another team. The Colts could match the offer or let him go and get two first-round draft picks in return.

"We decided the best thing to do would be to put the non-exclusive tag on him," Colts President Bill Polian said. "It allows us to retain our rights going forward and it allows us to try and work something out."

Woodson, a four-time Pro Bowl cornerback, was made Oakland's franchise player for the second straight year.

The Raiders also re-signed receiver Jerry Porter,



Edgerrin James was designated the Colts' franchise player on Tuesday, but the team didn't indicate whether that was to keep him or trade him.

giving him a multiyear deal. Terms of the contract weren't released for Porter, who led the Raiders with 64 catches for 998 yards and nine touchdowns. "I'm happy to return to the Raiders and ready to get started on a new football season," Porter said in a statement released by the team.

Meanwhile, Jacksonville franchised safety Donovan Darius for the third straight season, and San Francisco made linebacker Julian Peterson its franchise player for the second year in a row.

Pittsburgh failed to designate wide receiver Plaxico Burress as its franchise player, all but assuring he will become a free agent.

He had at least 60 catches for three years in a row before being slowed by a hamstring injury last season, when his 35 catches were his fewest since he made 22 as a rookie in 2000.

Dallas cut defensive end Marcellus Wiley just one season after he was the Cowboys' top free-agent signing. He had just three sacks and often was benched in obvious passing situations.

San Diego released receiver-renter Tim Dwight after four injury-marred seasons. Baltimore let go of veteran wide receiver Kevin Johnson and Kansas City cut ties with defensive end Ronnie Holliday.

Carolina gave a new deal to Rod Smith, who first gained attention in the one-year NFL by wearing "He Hate Me" on the back of his uniform. He has played primarily on special teams as a kick receiver and missed most of last season with a knee injury.

## Former Pro Bowl punter Roby dead at 43

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Former punter Reggie Roby, a 16-year NFL veteran and three-time Pro Bowl selection, died Tuesday after being found unconscious at home by his wife. He was 43.

Melissa Roby found her husband dead with no pulse. Paramedics tried to resuscitate him at home and in the ambulance, but he was

pronounced dead in the emergency room at St. Thomas Hospital, according to a statement released by the family.

The cause of death is unknown, the statement said.

Roby was a sixth-round pick in 1983 out of Iowa by the Miami Dolphins, where he played from 1983-92. He also played for the Washington Redskins, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Houston/Ten-

nessee Oilers and San Francisco 49ers, where he wrapped up his career with a final season in 1999.

He led the AFC in 1991 with an average punt of 45.7 yards, and he holds the Pro Bowl record with 10 punts in the 1985 game.

"He was an outstanding punter for us and his booming kicks often helped us win the field position battle," Don Shula, who coached Roby, said in a statement released by the Dolphins.

## SPORTS

Huskers drop  
No. 4 CowboysNebraska victory knocks  
Okla. State into Big 12 tie

BY ERIC OLSON

The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton had no difficulty assessing his fourth-ranked Cowboys' performance in a 74-67 loss to Nebraska on Tuesday night.

"I told the squad this ranks as one of the 10 worst performances of any team I've had that's any good," Sutton said.

"It was just a bad game, and it came at a bad time."

Not only did the loss drop the Cowboys into a tie with No. 8 Kansas atop the Big 12 standings, it could damage their hopes of a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament. Oklahoma State is at Kansas on Sunday.

Joe McCray scored 17 of his 22 points in the second half and Aleks Maric added a career-high

15 to lead Nebraska to its first win over a Top Five opponent since a 98-91 victory over No. 3 Missouri in the 1994 Big Eight tournament. It was Nebraska's first win in 20 games against Top 10 opponents.

"We needed a great, great effort to have a chance to win," Nebraska coach Barry Collier said. "Our guys believed they could do that, and four or five minutes at a time we came at them."

Oklahoma State, which averaged 82 points in winning its last six games by an average of 15, was held under 70 points for only the fourth time this season.

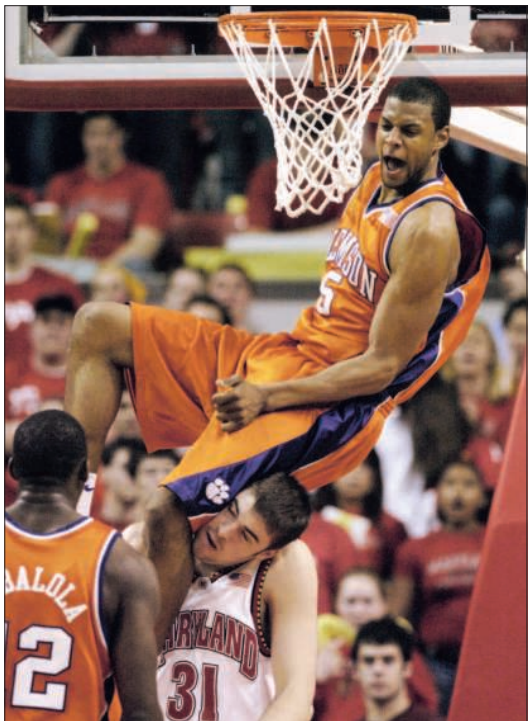
The Cowboys (20-4, 10-3 Big 12) turned in a sloppy effort that saw them commit 19 turnovers and go eight straight possessions without scoring to start the second half.

SEE HUSKERS ON PAGE 29



Nebraska's Jake Muhleisen (12) works his way through the crowd that stormed the court after Nebraska beat Oklahoma State 74-67 in Lincoln, Neb., on Tuesday. It was the Cornhuskers' first victory over an opponent ranked in the Top Five since the 1994 Big Eight tournament.

## Tigers on top of Terps again



Clemson's Sharrod Ford (5) lands on Maryland's Will Bowers (31) after a dunk during Clemson's 97-93 victory Tuesday in College Park, Md. Clemson's Olu Babalola (12) is at left. Ford had 24 points and 10 rebounds as Clemson swept Maryland for the first time since 1996-97. See story on Page 29.

Nets All-Star  
Carter outdone  
by Raptors' Rose  
in first game  
against his  
former team

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Alexander, James,  
Vinatieri given  
franchise tag

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Bonds reports  
to spring training  
with much to say  
to media —  
except about  
steroids

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Start of Match Play latest delay on PGA 'Wet' Coast Swing Page 30